Saturday, May 30, 2015

65p

**Supporting local sport** 

Daily Echo

Top quotes of the 14/15 Premier League year

Did they really say that? See pages 10/11



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## A stunning season!



How Saints came a magnificent 7th - P12-20

# Theo bags Saints European football

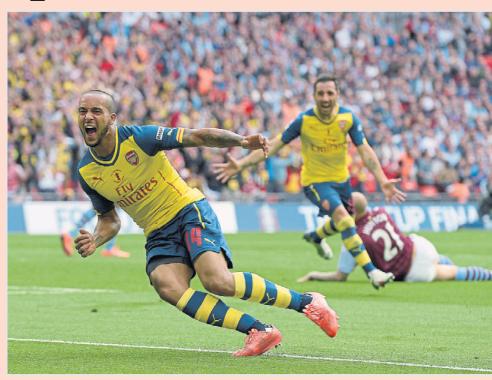
## Europa League is go

FORMER Saints star Theo Walcott helped his old club qualify for European football for the first time in more than a decade as he scored for Arsenal in the FA Cup final at Wembley.

Walcott, a Saints academy product who joined the Gunners nearly ten years ago for £9.1m, scored the first goal as the Gunners defeated Aston Villa 4-0 to lift the trophy.

Their win ensured Saints qualified for the Europa League as a result of finishing seventh last season. They will start their European campaign on July 30.

Report pages 2-3



Arsenal's ex-Saints star Theo Walcott celebrates scoring his side's first goal during the FA Cup Final at Wembley

#### **INSIDE**



Terry Paine: Why Blatter must go: P5



Non league: Wessex joy for Adam : 26/27



Cricket: Four pages of news start on P34

**GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk** 

**DAILY ECHO** Saturday, May 30, 2015

## **SAINTS SPOTLIGHT**

# One more twist in the tail for Saints

Will they join the legions of 'not really big' clubs?

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

#### And so the 2014/15 season comes to an end... or rather it doesn't.

With defeat at Manchester City. Saints fell just short of an automatic Europa place. We had to wait on the result of the FA Cup final to see if we play in Europe next season, writes DAREN WHEELER.

There was always going to be one more twist in the tail. You knew that one team would implode and out of the three teams chasing that automatic European place, Saints had by far the most difficult job in overcoming the reigning champions.

But in terms of schadenfreude few results could have raised more of a smile than Liverpool's spectacular capitulation at Stoke as the Reds did their level best to ruin Steven Ger rard's farewell... They did a wonderful job

It brings the curtain down on a remarkable season. Remarkable not just for just how well Saints did but, conversely, how poorly the clubs that so gleefully raided us did.

Few people suffered more this season than Brendan Rodgers.

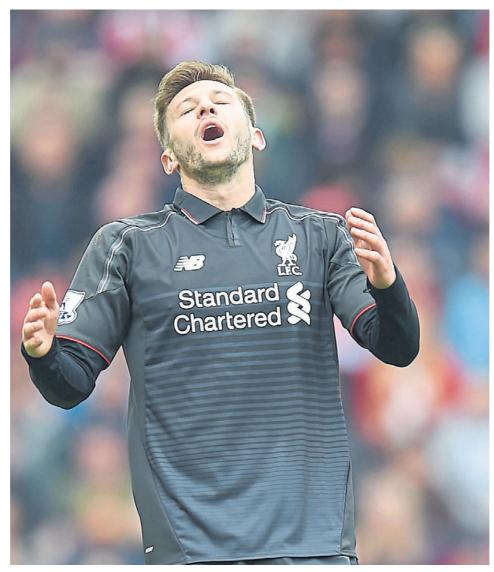
Rodgers was probably the epitome of heartless as he mocked Saints' European ambitions and showed absolutely no remorse as he raided Saints for three first team players.

It's probably the most used quote of the season, "They have a choice as a club," Rodgers said. "They don't have to sell. You have a choice. Maybe Southampton's objectives have changed. They were looking to be a Champions League club, I believe, That has obviously changed." And few quotes could ever have come back to haunt a manager as his did this season.

No quote, probably in football as a whole, has shown a greater lack of understanding of the game or a greater naivety than Rodgers

If Rodgers really believed that his club had showed little or no fault in raiding Southampton for a staggering three players, or that Saints could anything to stop him, then he really is as deluded as most of us

In the modern game, a club doesn't even have to publicly court a player to turn his head.



Liverpool's Adam Lallana is dejected during the Barclays Premier League match at the Britannia Stadium, Stoke

All it takes is a few well placed snippets in the media and a player will know all too well if a club's interested in him.

Rodgers never needed to make public his intentions, the mere hint that Liverpool were interested and off went Lovren, Lallana and Lambert.

Morgan Schneiderlin has already tated that if he will only leave Saints for a big club playing Champions League and that automatically

rules out the likes of Tottenham and Liverpool. ... They are now officially not really big clubs...

This season saw Saints draw the gap between us and the likes of Liverpool and Tottenham even closer. Nowadays if you dare to mention the fact that Saints are almost on a par with these clubs then you'll be subjected to every football fans' last resort... history.

Nothing shows vou've lost an

argument more than having to resort to trawling through trophies won and few sets of fans do that better than Liverpool or Spurs fans who seem forever stuck in the 80s.

If there's been one sad loss for me this season then it's been the loss of Portsmouth from my writing arsenal. A whole season and I've barely mentioned them. I shall just have to make do with mocking Liverpool and Spurs... It's not the same, is it?

## Europe is way to go!

would have snuck up on the rails and snatched that Europa place from Spurs and Liverpool.
Instead they now rely on

Arsenal to win the FA Cup and give them the reward they so richly deserve, writes Daren Wheeler.

European football presents a dilemma.

Would European football

come too soon for us?
Is it too much for a club of our size to compete for the Champions' League places next season whilst playing midweek games in the Europa league?

I'm of the opinion that if you're playing well, you can't play enough games. Rather than hinder our

promotion from League One, the JPT actually kick-started our remarkable rise.

Success breeds success and I wholeheartedly believe that that taste of Wembley success gave us the feeling of being winners... and we

Should Saints qualify for Europe I believe it can only be a good thing.

It will attract better players, give fringe players a chance to shine and overall increase



Saints lift the JPT in 2010

## Incredible season

THE Europa League is the most realistic chance of major glory a club like Saints can hope for.

Qualifying for it can be a magnificent achievement and a wonderful adventure, writes Daren Wheeler.

This has been a remarkable

To finish with a recordbreaking points total after losing five first-team players has to be the story of the

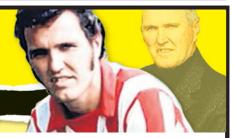
Forget your Mourhinos, your Pochettinos and your Brendan Rogers

Regardless of how the FA Cup final goes, the 2015/2016 season holds huge promise and great adventure.

Bring it on.

# aine's World

**EXCLUSIVE** 



# If Blatter really cared, he would stand down

IF this were any other organisation, Sepp Blatter would have been gone as President of FIFA a long time ago.

But FIFA is not a normal organisation.

For years, FIFA swatted away those trying to place checks on its power, issuing severe threats that could render a country's football structure meaningless and ignoring any court that tried to get involved using every trick in the book.

At each stage, FIFA destroyed its public perception and the image of football – to accumulate more and more money.

To the tune of over \$1 billion in cash re-Fortunately, for football fans, it appears

FIFA's economic bubble has burst.

The charges filed this week span across multiple countries and decades. US authorities levied charges against 14

FIFA representatives and sports marketing agencies for a range of alleged offences from bribery to tax evasion.

The charges include bribery relating to the 2010 World Cup.

Additionally, press conference statements implicated Nike as involved in some manner with the bribery.

In all, the alleged bribes total at least \$110

The lesson, of course; the ultimate check on any organisation's power is the taxing

In a "separate" inquiry, Swiss authorities opened an investigation into bidding for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups

The charges signal a desire for change not just in FIFA's organisational structure, but in perhaps the entire way the system is run, managed and overseen.

Every level of football is implicated: UEFA. and key nations like the United States, have the ability to act.

The leverage is there to begin the process and the support is behind them.

To fail to act in some fashion would be a disaster publicly

It appears from the serious charges levelled on two fronts by the US and the Swiss that governments have finally decided to place checks on FIFA.

Rather unfortunately, no one really knows if these checks will work and how deep these countries will sink their teeth in.

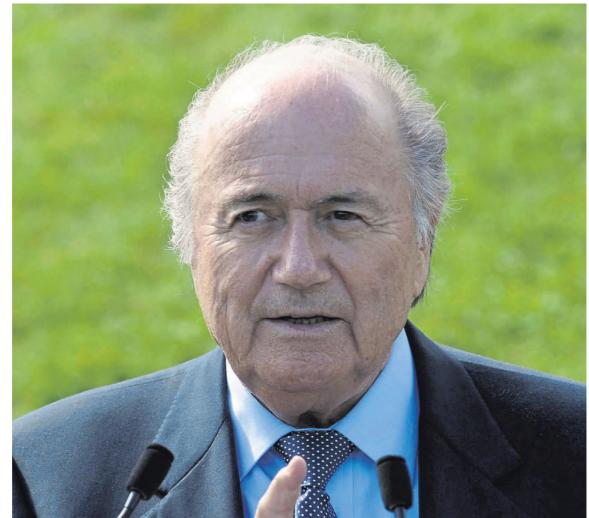
The USAG refused to comment on whether Blatter was implicated in these crimes, or whether the case against him was closed.

The Swiss meanwhile stated that he wasn't arrested because he lives in Switzerland and they can question him when they want.

Blatter was not arrested.

Rather, he sat comfortably on his perch, proclaiming that the FIFA congress and the presidential election would go forward.

Greg Dyke openly questioned the fact that elections were going forward.



FIFA president Sepp Blatter

UEFA, perhaps the second most powerful sports organisation, conveyed an emergency meeting in Warsaw which resulted in a threat that they would pull out of the con-

Blatter responded with drivel

This crisis extends beyond FIFA and to the future of football.

Blatter does not see this.

If Blatter continues his arrogance, electing to go forward with elections, UEFA have

to make good on their threat.

Other nations must join them

Allowing elections to continue forward makes a mockery of the traction gained by the indictments and the investigation, even if Blatter doesn't win.

The next few days are critical for the future of football.

The corruption scandal has tarnished the beautiful game.

If this were a normal company, Blatter

would have resigned.

But its not.

If Blatter really cared about the sport he would end his reign in the wake of the this nightmare.

The realist in me says I should just accept the status quo.

I hope that part of me is wrong. I hope for the sake of the game, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

#### **Adam Rant**



# The week's big talking points with ADAM LEITCH

# Saints summer to be anxious again

Nathaniel Clyne and the irreplaceable Morgan Schneiderlin top the list of Southampton stars wanting to leave during the summer break. Despite having had their best ever season in the Premier League, the club now has to decide which players to let go and the price at which to do so...

## NO SOONER has the season come to an end than the fun has started.

Of course, by 'fun' we mean the misery of the transfer window.

Saints fans have barely had time to take stock and reflect on what was a fantastic campaign for their club and already some of their players are being linked with moves away.

We all know about the Nathaniel Clyne story. If he is not likely to sign a new contract then Saints are just better off to get this one done.

Sell him, reinvest in a new right back and focus on the future.

Clyne has been superb for Saints, and it would obviously be better if he stays, but if he wants to move on then, with a year left on his contract, good business sense has to prevail.

A right back is, ultimately, a replaceable commodity.

Look at what Saints did at left back last season for proof of that. They have made a £17m profit on trading Luke Shaw for Ryan Bertrand. Based on the evidence of last season they got a better player for that profit.

The more troublesome one for Saints is Morgan Schneiderlin, who was quoted in an interview with French radio as talking about wanting to play Champions League football.

There are two things to say about this one.

Firstly, you need to take a look at a Saints point of view.

Schneiderlin is arguably the highest quality player at the club. If he's not then he's pretty damn close.

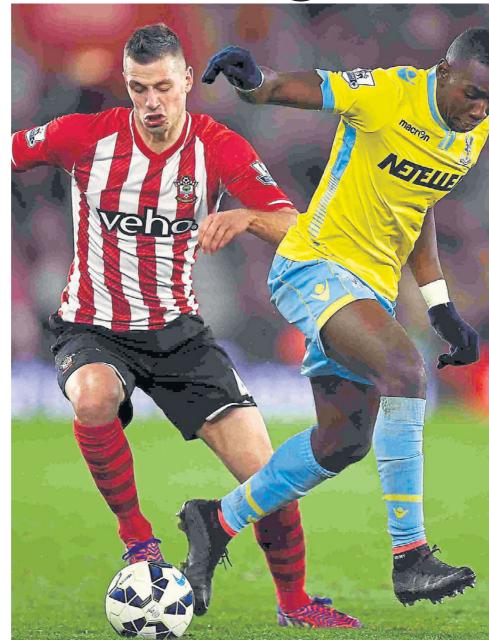
Even for £25m Saints are going to seriously struggle to replace him in a like-for-like sense.

Schneiderlin is a player who is good enough to be playing in the Champions League, and, therefore, one of the big four in the Premier League, or a similar standard abread

Saints did amazingly well last summer in the transfer market, but at no point were they looking to replace a player of this quality and importance to the side.

If Schneiderlin goes then the honest truth is that Saints are very likely to be weaker next season.

The other way to look at this is from Schneiderlin's point of view. Adam Rant has sympathy with



There is again talk of Morgan Schneiderlin leaving Saints this summer

The best thing that could have happened last summer was that he didn't get a move to Tottenham. That would not have been real progress, or a suitable stage for his qualities.

But he has been a great servant to

Saints, he should be playing in the Champions League, and now might just be the right time for him to get that move.

As long as Saints get a fair fee for him and he did move to such a club

then you could only wish him all the best for the future

the best for the future.

It's been a fantastic season for Saints. It is frustrating then that talk of sales rather than signings dominates right now

# Triathlon moves on

TRIATHLON arrives back in London this weekend with the Brownlee brothers set to steal the headlines.

It will be fascinating to see how well supported this sprint distance event is.

Adam Rant paid a visit last year and there were a reasonable number of spectators around the course but not that significant considering it was right in the heart of the nation's capital.

This event, the British leg of the ITU World Triathlon Championships, is a major sporting milestone for the country, but one that is set to up camp and move to Leeds soon.

That is partly no doubt because the Brownlees are based there and there is much interest in them in that part of the world.

It is a shame then that such a rapidly growing sport is not being better supported in the powerhouse of London.

Without wishing to sound disrespectful to Leeds, a race that is beamed worldwide from the capital sends a big message about Britain and its sporting ambitions and desires following on from the success of theOlympics in 2012.

To have to move it does the opposite.



The Brownlee brothers

## Jimmy is a great

IT SEEMS strange that Jimmy Anderson is never talked about as a great of English bowling.

This week he became the first Englishman to take 400 Test wickets

Maybe it's because he is still playing, and in years to come we will think of him differently

Maybe it's just because he's an understated character rather than some of the others we often consider.

Maybe it's simply because when we speak of lan Botham and Bob Willis, their achievements have been much shared due to being on terrestrial TV, whereas Anderson's have been tucked away on Sky.

## **Saints**Spotlight



## SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2014/15

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AUGUST															
Sat 17 Liverpool		Forster Forster	Clyne 1 Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Yoshida Yoshida	Bertrand Bertrand	Schneiderlin Schneiderlin	Wanyama Wanyama	Tadic*	S Davis** S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Pelle Pelle	Long*	Isgrove** Cork**	
Tues 26 Millwall (LC 2) A			Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Targett	S Davis	Wanyama**	Isgrove*	Long***	W-Prowse	Pelle 1	Tadic*	Cork 1**	Ramirez***
Sat 30 West Ham	W 3-1	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin 2	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse**	Long*	Pelle 1	Ramirez*	Cork**	
SEPTEMBER															
Sat 13 Newcastle			Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork 1***	Schneiderlin 1		Tadic**	Long*	Pelle 2	Wanyama*	W-Prowse**	Gardos***
Sat 20 Swansea			Clyne 1	Fonte Fonte	Yoshida* Gardos	Bertrand Targett**	Cork** Wanyama	Schneiderlin Schneiderin	W-Prowse*** S Davis	Tadic 1	Long Mane*	Pelle Pelle	Gardos* Long*	S Davis** Bertrand**	Wanyama 1***
Sat 27 QPRH			Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand 1	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic***	Mane*	Pelle 1	Long*	Cork**	Targett***
OCTOBER Sun 5 TottenhamA	L 0-1	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic	Mane	Pelle	Long*		
Sat 18 SunderlandH	W 8-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork 1	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Tadic 1	Long**	Pelle 2**	Wanyama 1*	Mane**	Mayuka***
Sat 25 StokeH		Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Tadic	Mane 1	Pelle	Wanyama*	Gardos** Alderweireld**	
Weds 29 Stoke (LC4)	W 3-2	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos**	Targett	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Tadic	Long 1	Pelle 2	Cork*	Alderweireid	
NOVEMBER	W 4 C	Foreto:	China	Fonto	Aldoni	Dortror -	Manus 4	Cohnoidedia	C Douit	Tadiatt	Longt	Della	Mane*	Cork**	
Sat 1 Hull		Forster Forster	Clyne Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Alderweireld Alderweireld	Bertrand Bertrand	Wanyama 1 Wanyama	Schneiderlin Schneiderlin***	S Davis S Davis*	Tadic** Tadic	Long* Mane**	Pelle Pelle	Cork*	Long** 2	Reed***
Mon 24 Aston Villa	D 1-1	Forster	Clyne 1	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Long**	Tadic	Mane*	Pelle	Mayuka*	Cork**	
Sun 30 Man City H	L 0-3	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin*	S Davis***	Tadic	Mane**	Pelle	Yoshida*	Long**	Mayuka***
DECEMBER															
Weds 3 Arsenal		Forster Forster	Clyne Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Alderweireld Yoshida	Bertrand Bertrand	Wanyama	Cork* S Davis	S Davis	Tadic** Tadic*	Long*** Mane	Pelle 1	Yoshida* Hesketh*	Mane**	Mayuka***
Sat 13 Burnley		Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama Wanyama	S Davis	Long** Hesketh*	Tadic	Mane**	Pelle 1	W-Prowse*	Mayuka** Long**	
Tues 16 Sheff Utd (LC5)A	L 0-1	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos	Targett*	Wanyama***	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	Bertrand	Mane**	Long	Isgrove*	Mayuka**	Alderweireld***
Sat 20 EvertonH			Clyne Clyne***	Fonte Gardos	Alderweireld  Alderweireld 1	Yoshida 1 Yoshida	Bertrand 1	Reed Schneiderlin	W-Prowse* W-Prowse	S Davis S Davis*	Long** Mane 1	Pelle 1 Pelle**	Targett* Wanyama*	Gape** Long**	McCarthy***
Fri 26 Crystal Palace A Sat 28 Chelsea		Forster	Yoshida**	Fonte	Alderweireld	Targett	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Tadic*	Mane 1	Pelle	W-Prowse*	Gardos**	Long***
JANUARY															
Thurs 1 ArsenalH	W 2-0	Forster	Alderweireld	Fonte	Gardos**	Bertrand	Wanyama	S Davis	W-Prowse	Tadic*** 1	Mane* 1	Pelle	Reed*	Yoshida**	Long***
Sun 4 Ipswich (FAC 3) H			W-Prowse	Fonte	Gardos	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin 1		S Davis	Tadic*	Pelle	Isgrove*		
Sun 11 Man United		Forster Forster	Clyne Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Alderweireld* Garods	Bertrand Bertrand	Wanyama Targett	Schneiderlin Wanyama*	W-Prowse Reed	S Davis*** W-Prowse	Elia** Tadic**	Pelle Long 1	Gardos* S Davis*	Tadic** 1 Pelle**	Reed***
Sat 17 Newcastle			Clyne	Fonte	Gardos	Bertrand	Reed	S Davis	Tadic**	W-Prowse*	Elia*** 2	Pelle	Cork*	Long**	Targett***
Sat 24 Crystal Palace (FAC 4) .H	L 2-3	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos*	Bertrand	Cork**	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse	Elia	Pelle 1	Targett*	Long** ***	Seager***
FEBRUARY															
Sun 1 Swansea			Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Reed*	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse	Elia**	Pelle	Mane*	Seager**	Tadic***
Sat 7 QPRA Weds 11 West HamH		Forster Forster	Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Yoshida* Gardos	Targett Yoshida	Wanyama** Wanyama	S Davis Reed**	Mane 1 Mane***	W-Prowse S Davis	Elia*** Elia*	Pelle Pelle	Gardos* Tadic*	Schneiderlin** W-Prowse**	Djuricic***
Sun 22 LiverpoolH	L 0-2	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Targett	Wanyama	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Djuricic***	Elia	Pelle	Schneiderlin*	Mane**	Tadic***
Sat 28 West Brom	L 0-1	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Gardos*	Bertrand	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	Tadic***	Mane	Pelle	Elia*	S Davis**	Long***
MARCH		_													W-Prowse***
Tue 3 Crystal Palace		Forster	Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Yoshida Alderweireld	Bertrand Bertrand	Wanyama Wanyama	Schneiderlin Schneiderlin	Mane 1 Tadic** 1	Djuricic*** Mane	Elia* S Davis*	Pelle** Long***	Tadic* W-Prowse*	Long** Djuricic**	Pelle***
Sat 21 BurnleyH			Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	S Davis	Schneiderlin	Tadic**	Mane	Long 1	Pelle	K Davis*	Wanyama**	
APRIL															
Sat 4 Everton	L 0-1	K Davis	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld***	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Long	W-Prowse**	Elia*	Pelle	Tadic*	Mane**	Djuricic***
Sat 11 HullH			Alderweireld	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin	Long***	S Davis	Mane**	Pelle 1	W-Prowse* 1	Tadic**	Elia*** Elia***
Sat 18 Stoke			Clyne Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Yoshida Yoshida	Bertrand** Bertrand	Alderweireld Alderweireld	Schneiderlin 1 Schneiderlin	Tadic* W-Prowse*	Mane Mane	S Davis*** S Davis**	Pelle 2	W-Prowse* Long*	Long** Elia**	LIIA
MAY Sat 2 SunderlandA	L 1-2	K Davis	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Alderweireld	Wanyama**	Long*	W-Prowse	Mane*** 1	Pelle	Djuricic*	S Davis**	Elia***
Sat 9 Leicester	L 0-2	Gazzaniga	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Reed	Wanyama	Elia*	S Davis**	Mane	Pelle	Long*	Djuricic**	F.,
Sat 16 Aston Villa			Clyne Clyne	Fonte Fonte	Alderweireld Alderweireld	Bertrand Bertrand	W-Prowse** S Davis**	Wanyama Wanyama	Long 2 Long	S Davis* F Djuricic*	Mane 3 Mane	Pelle*** 1 Pelle	Yoshida* W-Prowse*	Djuricic** Elia**	Elia***
Sun 24 Man CityA	L 0-2	IN Davis	Ciyrie	1 OILE	Aidel Welleld	Deltranu	Davis	vvaliyailia	Long	Djuncio	ivialie	1 GIIG	A4-LIOWSE	ша	

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG CSA	CSG	+	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
ARTUR BORUC	0	0	0	0	50	0	NATHANIEL CLYNE	35	2	6	1 99(5	) 5	SAM GALLAGHER	0	0	0	0	3(17)	2
CODY CROPPER	0	0	0	0	0	0	JACK CORK	5(7)	2	1(3)	1 128(25	) 3	SHANE LONG	16(16)	5	5(2)	1	21(18)	6
KELVIN DAVIS	6(1)	0	0	0	298(2)	0	HARRISON REED	5(3)	0	1	0 7(10	) 0	EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0(5)	0	0(1)	0	3(16)	1
FRASER FORSTER	30	0	7	0	37	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	24(2)	4	4	1 228(33	) 15	GRAZIANO PELLE	37(1)	12	5(1)	4	42(2)	16
PAULO GAZZANIGA	2	0	0	0	20(1)	0	VICTOR WANYAMA	26(6)	3	6	0 52(10	) 3	JAY RODRIGUEZ	0	0	0	0	59(17)	26
RYAN BERTRAND	34	2	4(1)	0	39(1)	2	STEVEN DAVIS	33(3)	0	5(1)	0 95(21	) 6	JAKE HESKETH	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
MATT TARGETT	3(3)	0	5(1)	0	8(4)	0	LLOYD ISGROVE	0(1)	0	1(2)	0 2(4	) 0	DOMINIC GAPE	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
JOSE FONTE	37	0	7	0	221(5)	13	SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0	0 0(1	) 0	JASON MCCARTHY	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
FLORIN GARDOS	5(6)	0	6	0	11(6)	0	GASTON RAMIREZ	0(1)	0	0(1)	0 27(23	) 8	ELJERO ELIA	9(7)	2	1	0	10(7)	2
TOBY ALDERWEIRELD	26	1	0(2)	0	26(2)	1	DUSAN TADIC	24(7)	4	5(1)	1 29(8	) 5	RYAN SEAGER	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	0(2)	0
MAYA YOSHIDA	18(4)	1	1	0	65(5)	3	SADIO MANE	24(6)	10	2	0 26(6	) 10	FILIP DJURICIC	2(6)	0	0	0	2(6)	0
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	17(9)	1	5	0 52(39	) 2							

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

**DAILY ECHO** Saturday, May 30, 2015



Half Time: The Glorious Summer of 1934 **Bv Robert Winder** 

Sportsbookofthemonth.com price: £15.90, saving £3.09 on rrp

A couple of years ago, everyone's favourite American import, Bill Bryson, wrote One Summer, the tale of how Babe Ruth, Al Capone and especially Charles Lindbergh dominated the news during the summer of 1927.

Bryson successfully mixes newspaper reports with radio commentary and eve-witness accounts to immerse the reader into the age, allowing him to capture its spirit and understand how Lindbergh became the world's most

famous man. In *Half Time*, Robert Winder repeats the technique, examining a much short-er three-week period in 1934, drawing on newspaper reports, concentrating solely on English sporting achievement and creating enough room to adhere to his publisher's 'mission statement', namely to "transcend individual sports and say something about life".

English sport's annus mirabilis saw Hedley Verity take 15 Australian wickets in the Lord's Ashes Test, after which Henry Cotton became Open champion. winning at Royal St George's, while Fred Perry ended the 25-year search



for an indigenous Wimbledon tennis champion

What, then, of the brief to say some-

thing about life?

The trio succeeded in an age shorn of sports psychologists, nutritionists, agents and big money by sticking to the simple mantra of 'practice makes

Cotton, for example, would drive his clubs through long wet grass to strengthen his wrists, while Verity shovelled coal to improve muscle strength and Perry, the world table-tennis champion, would strike a ping-pong ball

against a wall for hours upon end.
As a team player, Verity was always likely to be the more effective leader.

Regrettably, this theory proved accurate when, leading a company of men during the 1943 invasion of Sicily, he was fatally wounded, aged just 38.

By contrast, neither Perry nor Cotton saw active service; they would become the forerunners of today's 'focused' sportsmen who appreciated that there's no substitute for hard work and discipline.

That's fine - and correct - but perhaps sportsmen and women have grown more determinedly individualistic in the interim, which is not quite the trait required for team success - as English sports fans could confirm.

## Premiership Spotlight



# Facts and stats of

Crystal Palace have won two league games at Anfield. Alan Pardew played in the first (1991) and managed them in the second (3-1 on the penultimate weekend of the season).

Leicester became the first club to overturn a two-goal deficit against Manchester United in the Premier League when they beat them 5-3 in September. They did it twice in the same game, as they were 0-2 and 1-3 in

Swansea became only the third team Swansea became only the third team in Premier League history to beat both Arsenal and Manchester United home and away in the same season (along with West Ham in 2006/07 and Chelsea in 2006/10) in 2009/10).

Relegated Hull have never won a Premier League fixture in May. In 13 attempts, they have drawn four and

George Boyd became the fourth player to play for two relegated teams in the same Premier League season (along with Mark Robins in 1994-95, Kabba in 2006-07 and David Nugent in 2009-10).

Liverpool ended the season with their worst ever Premier League defeat (6-1 at Stoke). It was the first time they had conceded six or more goals in a league game since losing 7-2 at Tottenham in 1963.

Chelsea lost only four games all season (in all three domestic competitions) – a record low for a team in the Premier League era.

Jose Mourinho has only lost two Premier League games by three goals (3-0 v Middlesbrough in 2006, 3-0 v WBA in 2015. James Morrison played for the opposition in both.

QPR became the first team to lose their first 11 away games in a top-flight season since Liverpool in 1953/54. Among the losses were a 2-1 defeat at St Mary's in September.

Against Man Utd in May, Arsenal failed to have a single shot in the first-half of a Premier League game for the first time since November 2004 v Liverpool.

Ander Herrera scored with six of his seven shots on target in his debut Premier League campaign.

Sammy Ameobi scored eight seconds after coming on as a sub vs Tottenham

the fastest goal as a substitute recorded in the Premier League.

Sadio Mane's hat-trick for Southampton against Aston Villa took just two minutes and 56 seconds – the fastest ever seen in the Premier

Olivier Giroud scored in six consecutive Premier League games in Feb-April – the first Arsenal player to do so since Emmanuel Adebayor in 2008



ALAN PARDEW: Anfield double act.



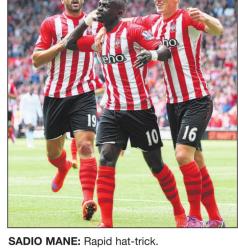
LUCKY OMEN: James Morrison, left.

between them in 2013-14.

Harry Kane won his team 24 points with his goals this season, more than

Kane became the first Tottenham player to score 30 plus goals in all comps in a single season since Gary Lineker in 1991-92.

Robbie Fowler (twice) and Chris Sutton are the only players to reach 20 goals in a PL season at a younger age than Harry Kane this term.





HARRY KANE: 30 plus goals.

Liverpool ended the season with 52 goals, the same number that Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge scored

any other player.

John Terry became the Premier League's all-time highest scoring defender (39).

Saints became the first team in the Premier League era to score five goals in the first-half of a match (v Aston Villa) and five goals in the second-half of a match (v Sunderland) in the same

Diego Costa became only the fourth Chelsea player to reach 20 goals in a Premier League campaign (after Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard).

Diego Costa reached 10 Premier League goals in just nine games; the

only player to reach double figures in fewer games is Mick Quinn (6).

Sergio Aguero was the top scorer in all competitions amongst Premie League players this term (32) as wel as winning the Premier League golder

Sergio Aguero now has 10 goals in seven Premier League games agains Tottenham.

Alexis Sanchez became the firs Arsenal player to score 20 goals in hi first season at the club since Thierry

Cesc Fabregas assisted 18 goals, only

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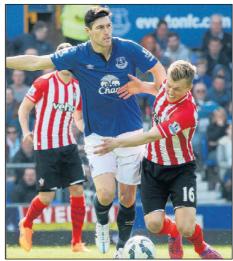
## **Premiership** Spotlight



# the 2014/15 term



CHARLIE AUSTIN: Key man for QPR.



**CENTURY OF BOOKINGS: Gareth Barry.** 



13% of Stoke's Premier League goals in 2014-15 came on the final day against Liverpool.

Villa scored 31 league goals this season. Their lowest ever in a single league season before this campaign was 36 in Division Two in 1969-70.

Manchester City finished as the top scoring team (83) in the Premier League for the third time in the last four campaigns.

With five in 2014-15. Peter Crouch has scored 47 headed goals in the Premier League, more than any other

The QPR v Leicester game in November saw 52 shots, the most recorded by Opta in a single Premier

Thibaut Courtois kept 12 clean sheets in his debut Premier League season. Petr Cech kept 24 in his first campaign (04-05).

West Ham have ended their last 23 top-flight seasons with a negative goal

QPR's Rob Green made more errors leading to a goal than any other Premier League player (6)

QPR's Richard Dunne became the

first player to reach double figures for own goals in Premier League history

West Brom kept 10 clean sheets in 18 games under Tony Pulis, more than any other Premier League club in that period (Jan 10 onwards).

Sunderland were shown 94 vellow cards, a record in a single Premier League season.

Gareth Barry became the first player to pick up 100 yellow cards in the Premier League - to date he has 104.

Lee Cattermole equalled a Premier League record by collecting 14 yellow cards in a single season. All 14 of Cattermole's bookings in 2014-15 were

Hazard saw 23 opponents booked for fouling him in the Premier League this season.

Newcastle's Moussa Sissoko picked up five bookings for dissent, more than any other player.

Everton finished in the bottom half of the table for the first time since

Stoke have finished ninth for two seasons in a row. This is the first time they've had two successive top-flight top half finishes since 1975.

Villa finished the season in 17th place; their lowest finish since 1994/95 (18th) and their lowest in a 38-game season since 1990/91 (17th).

If the Premier League had started when Alan Pardew had taken over at Crystal Palace, the Eagles would have finished sixth.

Didier Drogba (28) featured in more Premier League games than Diego Costa (26) this season.

Angel Di Maria completed 90 minutes in the Premier League only seven times this season.

Aston Villa were the only team to not to see a substitute score for them in the Premier League in 2014-15.

On the final day Petr Cech played his 333rd Premier League game for Chelsea; only two goalkeepers have played more for a single club (Jaaskelainen 379 for Bolton, Given 354 for Newcastle).

Champions Chelsea topped the table for 274 days of the season, a record in the Premier League era.

Last season's title winners Man City were top for only 15 days.

Leicester City spent longer at the bottom of the table without being relegated than any side in Premier League history (140 days).

 SUNDERLAND chairman Ellis Short is looking for yet another head coach after Dick Advocaat decided not to take up his offer of employment following a successful survival mission.

Having had to dispense swiftly with the likes of Paolo di Canio and Gus Povet in recent seasons. Short will be looking to appoint a man who can implement his long-term plan for the club. Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at possible contenders.

#### SAM ALLARDYCE

Former Sunderland defender Allardyce was swiftly installed as the bookmakers' favourite following Sunday's announcement that his contract at West Ham would not be renewed. He is undoubtedly a safe pair of hands, but does not fit readily into the continental model Short has introduced at the Stadium of Light and has indicated he will take several months out of the game after his spell

#### PAUL CLEMENT

Carlo Ancelotti's number two at Real Madrid has been touted as a candidate for several Barclays Premier League jobs in the last six months and has a relationship with the Black Cats' sporting director Lee Congerton following their time together at Chelsea. However, timing may prove crucial with Derby understood to be closing in on him as they look to replace Steve McClaren

#### STEVE McCLAREN

McClaren was sacked by Derby on Monday after failing to achieve promotion to the Premier League for the second successive year. The former Middlesbrough boss has been court-ed by derby rivals Newcastle - who are also looking for a head coach - in



**KEVIN PHILLIPS** 

recent months and a return to the north-east, where he won the Carling Cup in 2004 and steered Boro to the 2006 UEFA Cup final, could appeal.

#### DAVID MOYES

Moyes was appointed Real Sociedad boss in November last year on his return to management after being relieved of his duties at Manchester United. He is contracted until the summer of next year, but, given his experience in England's top flight, is likely to be linked with every job which comes up, although he insisted earlier this week he is happy where

#### SEAN DYCHE

Despite being unable to preserve Burnley's top-flight status, Dyche enhanced his reputation during the club's stay in the big time. However, his commitment to the Clarets and the task of restoring them to the Premier League may mean potential suitors are wasting their time.

#### **KEVIN PHILLIPS**

Former Saint Phillips would certainly enjoy popular support in Wearside, where he is fondly remembered for the goals which helped to propel the club into the limelight and secure successive top-seven finishes. He revealed recently that he has ambitions to return as manager, but admitted he is not ready to do so yet, and the chances are Sunderland will be looking for greater experience.



two short of Thierry Henry's single season record of 20 in 2002-03. Wayne Rooney became the first player to score 10+ goals in 11 succes-

But it took Rooney 560 minutes to attempt his first shot on target in the Premier League in 2015, due to his illfated spell in central midfield.

sive Premier League seasons.

Eden Hazard missed the 10th penalty he took in the Premier League (his first failure) but scored the rebound.

QPR's Charlie Austin and Burnley's Danny Ings scored or assisted 55% and 54% of their team's goals respectively in 2014-15.



League game

**DAILY ECHO** 10 Saturday, May 30, 2015

## FIFA: Q and A

IN a testing week for world football's governing body FIFA, the Sports Pink provides some background.

Q: So 18 people have been indicted or arrested by US authorities - what are they alleged to have done?

A: They are accused of a conspiracy going back to 1991 mostly surrounding TV and marketing rights for football tournaments including the World Cup with offences including fraud, bribery and money laundering totalling more than 150million US dollars (£97.9million) in bribes.

Q: Is it just allegations or more than

A: It's not just allegations - Chuck Blazer, the American former FIFA member, has pleaded guilty to 10 counts including accepting bribes from South Africa, with the money channelled through a FIFA bank account.

Q: What about the 2018 and 2022 World Cups?

A: Separate criminal proceedings have been launched by the Swiss attorney general into the votes for these tournaments and 10 FIFA executive committee members will be questioned by Swiss police this week



#### **SEPP BLATTER**

Q: Can any of this be connected to Sepp Blatter?

A: Not in the sense that he has done anything illegal - but he and FIFA can certainly be held accountable for the kind of poor governance that allowed this culture of corruption to flourish.

Q: What kind of thing are we talking

A: Disgraced former FIFA vice-president Jack Warner - one those indicted by the FBI - has claimed Blatter gave him World Cup TV rights to sell on for just a dollar, in return for helping him be elected as president.

That would be a resignation issue in just about any other organisation. Bribe money was also channelled through a FIFA account authorised by a "highranking FIFA official"

Q: What happens now? Will the FIFA presidential election take place on

A: FIFA insists it will take place but there is a mood among some associations that it should be postponed.

Q: Can Sepp Blatter really survive this?

A: Blatter is a great survivor and has survived huge scandals in the past, and his power-base will probably remain intact.

The bigger question is whether at the age of 79 he has the energy to stand the heat

## **Premiership** Spotlight

# THE BEST QUOTES

"We do everything that the team needs. That's why we deserve so much to be champions - and I think everybody knows that.

Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho hails his side as worthy champions in a swipe at their detractors.

"I think boring is 10 years without a title - that's boring. If you support a club and you wait, wait, wait for so many years without a Premier League title, then that's boring."

Mourinho hits back at digs from Arsenal fans that his side are bor-

"What is to regret after that? I wanted to go from A to B and somebody confronted me without any sign of

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger tries to play down a touchline tussle with Mourinho during his side's loss at Chelsea.

"If there is anything to say I will say it. I am more than capable of looking after myself, there is no doubt about

Leicester boss Nigel Pearson fails to explain clearly his bizarre touchline confrontation with Crystal Palace midfielder James McArthur.

"If you don't know the answer to that question then I think you are an ostrich. Your head must be in the

Pearson creates more negative headlines as he becomes involved in a strange exchange with a journalist during a press conference.

"It isn't good enough. I feel, myself, very lousy. When you have 13 points after 10 games, you are not doing well."

Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal reflects ruefully on the club's worst start to a league season since 1986.

"It is the most disappointing performance since I came here. I had the feeling before kick-off as the warm-up was not so good as usual."

Much later in the season, Van Gaal is annoyed by a defeat at Everton, highlighting inadequate preparation.

"I think we have done a really smart piece of business here. This transfer represents outstanding value for the

With words he might have been regretting soon after, Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers hails the £16million signing of Mario Balotelli.

"It's a really difficult one. I'd be unprofessional if I came on and didn't do my job - so I'm mixed with it.

An emotional Frank Lampard reflects on his equaliser for Manchester City against the club with which he is synonymous, Chelsea.



BORING: Jose Mourinho.



WORDS: Raheem Sterling and his manager.

'This game is Southampton versus Manchester United and the game needs that attention, and not the attention about both managers because that's private."

Southampton manager Ronald Koeman downplays his past feud with Van Gaal.

"It could be The Dog and Duck ver-

sus The Red Lion."

Former Manchester United defender Gary Neville, unimpressed by his old side's start to the season, does not anticipate a classic when they face struggling rivals Liverpool.

"You can't print the things I'm feeling. You've got to keep going, you don't throw the towel in."

Aston Villa boss Paul Lambert after a 5-0 hammering by Arsenal pushes him closer to the exit door.

'For former servants or players, there's always some appreciation but nothing here.

Rodgers is disappointed with the reception for Liverpool's former Southampton players Dejan Lovren, Adam Lallana and Rickie Lambert on their return to St

"It was a shocking challenge. It could have finished Ireland's career. Why it was not a straight red, I have

Stoke boss Mark Hughes is furi ous after a horrific challenge by Hull's Maynor Figueroa leaves Potters midfielder Stepher Ireland needing 15 stitches in a calf gash.

"The minimum you have to say is 'criminal tackle'."

Mourinho hits out at a tackle by Burnley's Ashley Barnes or Chelsea midfielder Nemanja Matic, an incident which led to the latter being sent off for his angry reaction.

"I've got to accept it, I've let my team-mates, manager and - more







FAREWELL: Steven Gerrard.

**NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL STARTS ON PAGE 23** 

## Premiership Spotlight

# OF THE SEASON



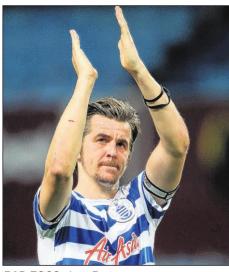
OSTRICHES: Nigel Pearson.



RESIGNED: Harry Redknapp.



WONDER GOAL: Charlie Adam.



BAD EGGS: Joey Barton.

importantly - the supporters down.

Steven Gerrard takes the blame for Liverpool's loss to Manchester United at Anfield after being sent off within 38 seconds of coming

"This has been the toughest decision of my life and one which both me and my family have agonised over for a good deal of time.

Gerrard, the long-serving inspirational Liverpool captain, announces he is to leave Anfield at the end of the season.

"It's one of my best goals, and with my left foot as well, but even a tap-in would be massive in a game like this."

Jermain Defoe reflects on his stunning volleyed winner in Sunderland's vital derby victory over Newcastle at the Stadium of

"Four years under that monetary situation, along with the history, made it difficult. My resilience and character has grown because of the nature of the club."

Alan Pardew admits the financial constraints placed on him at

cial constraints placed on him at Newcastle were wearisome after quitting the club for Crystal

"If I can't give 100 per cent I feel it's better for someone else to take over

Harry Redknapp quits as QPR manager in February citing the need for knee surgery, just hours after the club failed to make any deadline day signings.

"I think at the end of it all, when everybody is calmed down and settled down a little bit, that everybody can

down a little bit, that everybody can forgive and forget."

New York City head coach Jason Kreis hopes the controversy surrounding Lampard's extended deal with Manchester City blows

"I don't want to be perceived as a money-grabbing 20-year-old. I want to be seen as a 20-year-old kid who loves

playing football and doing his best for

Liverpool striker Raheem Sterling tries to seize control of the PR battle surrounding his new contract talks, but his unsanctioned BBC interview does little to end the negative publicity he has been receiving.

"We want players here who are super-professional and focused on their football."

Rodgers is unhappy after pic-tures emerge of Sterling inhaling nitrous oxide.

"If we close Sunderland - if we put a China wall around the city - it would be fantastic."

Under pressure from supporters. then Sunderland manager Gus Poyet attempts to blame the media for painting a bad picture of him

"Today was an absolutely disgusting decision from the referee in terms of the penalty against us. The lad Moses should be done for cheating, for diving, for conning the ref."

Swansea manager Garry Monk

slams Stoke's Victor Moses after side went down to a controversial loss at the Britannia Stadium.

"The ordinary man in the street will find his action to be simply disgustwalk of life, let alone any football field."

A FA disciplinary panel gives its verdict on the actions of Manchester United's Jonny Evans in banning him for six games for spitting at Newcastle's Papiss Cisse, who was also suspended for his retaliatory spit.

"It sat up nice and I saw the goalie off the line. It was one of those things, once in a lifetime this can happen to you. I'm lucky enough it's happened." Charlie Adam reflects on his

stunning goal from inside his own half against Chelsea.

I thought he'd done that on purpose - it looks like he did. He will miss two games. Is it an easy way out?"

Amid a blistering attack on his players, Newcastle boss John Carver accuses defender Mike Williamson of getting himself sent off deliberately in a shambolic 3-0 defeat at Leicester.

"I am a positive guy. I still think I am the best coach in the Premier League.

Despite an abysmal run of results during his time in charge, Carver retains a high opinion of his abilities.

One or two bad eggs have spoiled it. If it had been done my way, they would have been out of the building straight away."

Joey Barton is unimpressed by the efforts of some his colleagues during QPR's doomed campaign.

#### FIFA TIMELINE

Here is a timeline of the scandal that has engulfed FIFA over the past few years.

December 2010 - Russia is awarded the 2018 World Cup and Qatar gets the 2022 hosting rights. It comes days after the BBC broadcast a Panorama expose of FIFA, claiming senior FIFA officials Nicolas Leoz. Issa Hayatou and Ricardo Teixeira, who went on to vote on the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids, took bribes in the 1990s.

February 2011 - FIFA's ethics committee upheld three-year and one-year bans imposed respectively upon executive committee members Amos Adamu and Reynald Temarii for breaches of FIFA's code of ethics following a Sunday Times investigation into wrongdoing during the World Cup 2018 and

May 2011 - FIFA suspends presidential candidate Mohamed Bin Hammam and vice-president Jack Warner pending an investiga-tion into claims they had offered financial incentives to members of the Caribbean Football Union. It drops a complaint against president Sepp Blatter

The successful Qatar 2022 team denied any wrongdoing with their winning bid, saying their name had been "dragged through the mud for no reason"

FIFA sponsors Coca-Cola, adidas, Emirates and Visa raise concerns about the ongoing corruption claims surrounding officials

June 2011 - Hammam is found guilty of bribery and banned from all international and national football activity for life. Warner escapes investigation after resigning from his

July 2012 - Unable to ignore growing criticism any longer, FIFA commissions a report in to allegations of corruption in world football which is led by former US attorney and newly appointed head of FIFA'S ethics committee.

June 2014 - The Sunday Times reports it has received "hundreds of millions" of documents which it claims reveal that disgraced former FIFA executive committee member Hammam had made payments to football officials in return for votes for Qatar.

September 2014 - Michael Garcia completes his 430-page report in to corruption allegations and sends it to FIFA.

November 2014 - Hans-Joachim Eckert, chairman of the adjudicatory chamber of FIFA's independent ethics committee, publishes a 42-page summary of Mr Garcia's investigation, effectively confirming Russia and Qatar as World Cup hosts after finding breaches by them were "of very limited

November 2014 - FIFA lodges a criminal complaint with the Swiss attorney general over "possible misconduct" by individuals in connection with the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups but insists the investigation into the bidding process for the two World Cups is concluded. Mr Garcia calls the summary "incomplete and erroneous" and launches an appeal against it.

December 2014 - Mr Garcia looses his December 2014 - Mr Garcia looses his appeal against Mr Eckert's review of his report and resigns as FIFA's independent ethics investigator. The US lawyer issues a statement criticising FIFA's "lack of leader-ship", saying he cannot change the culture of the world governing body.

cember 2014 - FIFA executives agre publish a "legally appropriate version" of the report, but this has yet to happen.

May 2015 - Seven FIFA officials are arrested in dawn raids at a hotel in Zurich. They are ed in dawn raids at a hotel in Zurich. They are later charged by US authorities along with two other FIFA officials and five over allega-tions of racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies spanning 24 years. They are accused of breeding decades of "rampant, systemic, and deep-rooted" cor-ruption within FIFA by the US justice depart-

ment. FIFA say the upcoming presidential elections will go ahead in two days. Meanwhile, the Swiss authorities raid FIFA

headquarters, gathering data and documents for their separate investigation into allegations of criminal mismanagement and money laun-dering in connection with the allocation of the

2018 and 2022 World Cup bids. FIFA says there will be no revisiting of the World Cup bids and the tournaments will go ahead in Russia and Oatar

**DAILY ECHO** Saturday, May 30, 2015 12

## **Saints**Spotlight

## HOW RONALD KOEMAN OVERSAW A



## **HOW THEY FINISHED**

P W D 38 26 9 38 24 7 38 22 9 38 20 10 SAINTS Swansea Crystal Pal Everton West Brom

38 8 11 19 33 38 7 12 19 28 38 8 6 24 42 Koeman, against the odds,

masterminded Saints to an ever higher position in the Premier League than prede Mauricio Pochettino did. predecessor

And over the next few pages, the Sports Pink recalls how Koeman did it ....

### Aug17: Liverpool 2 Saints 1



Nathaniel Clyne celebrates his equalising goal at Anfield.

SAINTS left Anfield without a point - but they certainly made one.

Ronald Koeman's team defied the summer doubters, who had labelled them as being in a state of crisis or meltdown, by turning in an eve-catching display in the

new manager's first game in charge Raheem Sterling's goal gave Liverpool a first-half lead, but Nathaniel Clyne equalised after the break with a thunderous strike after being played in brilliantly by Dusan Tadic.

Unfortunately, despite dominating the game, Saints did not take any more chances and were punished late on by Daniel Sturridge's scrambled goal

#### Aug 23 Saints 0 West Bromwich 0



A frustrated Shane Long looks on as Saints draw a blank in their home opener.

AFTER an encouraging performance at Liverpool on the opening weekend, Saints produced a flat display in their first fixture of the season at St Mary's.

There was little action to speak of, but Ronald Koeman could reflect on his first of what would be many points in the cam-

James Ward-Prowse went closest for Saints, hitting the outside of a post with a second-half free-kick.

But the hosts were indebted to their new

keeper Fraser Forster, with the £10m signing from Celtic making a brilliant one-on-one save from Brown Ideye in the closing stages to preserve a point.

## **Saints**Spotlight

# REMARKABLE SAINTS REBUILDING

#### Aug 30: West Ham 1 Saints 3



Morgan Schneiderlin celebrates the first of his two goals at West Ham.

THE first Premier League victory of the season arrived in style for Saints, as they came from behind to win at West Ham.

Initially, it looked as if it would be another frustrating day for Ronald Koeman's side, as Mark Noble's deflected, long-range strike put the hosts in front.

But Morgan Schneiderlin put a turbu-

lent summer behind him by stroking in an equaliser right on half-time. The midfielder then diverted in a near-

post deliver from James Ward-Prowse after the interval to put Saints in front, with Graziano Pelle wrapping things up in the closing stages with a well-taken half-volley for his first of the season.

#### Sept 13: Saints 4 Newcastle 0



Jack Cork celebrates finally scoring his first Premier League goal for Saints.

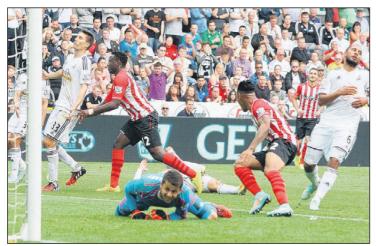
SAINTS produced a scintillating performance that provided a sign of things to

The St Mary's crowd watched on in delight as their side ruthlessly took Newcastle apart. They led after six min-utes, as Graziano Pelle guided a header from Ryan Bertrand's cross into the top

corner. Pelle soon added a second after

Dusan Tadic squared for him in the area. After half-time, Jack Cork scored his first league goal for the club, rounding keeper Tim Krul to make it 3-0, before Morgan Schneiderlin rounded off a stunning team move with a curling shot that

#### Sept 20: Swansea 0 Saints 1



Victor Wanyama wheels away after netting a late winner against Swansea.

SAINTS climbed to second in the Premier League after winning a third game in suc-

It was not an easy afternoon for them in Wales, though, as Swansea put them under significant early pressure.

However, the game swung their way when striker Wilfried Bony was dismissed

after making two poor challenges in the first-half.

Saints then took control, but it was not until the 80th minute that they managed the breakthrough, with Victor Wanyama proving an unlikely hero, powering into the area and poking a firm shot into the far

#### Sept 27: Saints 2 OPR 1



Graziano Pelle falls to the ground as he scores one of the goals of the season.

SAINTS kept their winning streak alive in a match that saw two of the finest goals of

Fresh from winning at Arsenal in the Capital One Cup a few days earlier, Ronald Koeman's men looked well on course for another success when Ryan Bertrand slammed home from Sadio Mane's backheel early in the second half.

However, Charlie Austin's wonderful swivel and volley equalised for QPR late on. Parity lasted just a few moments, though, as Graziano Pelle controlled a Dusan Tadic header with his right foot, before sending a stunning bicycle kick past Rob Green in the visitors' goal.

**DAILY ECHO** Saturday, May 30, 2015

## **Saints** Spotlight

## RECORD THRASHING OF SUNDERLAND

#### Oct 5: Tottenham 1 Saints 0



Ronald Koeman and his Saints predecessor, Mauricio Pochettino, look on,

SAINTS' winning run came to an end, as former manager Mauricio Pochettino got the better of his old side.

The visiting supporters travelled to north London desperate to win against the man who walked out of them just a few

months before, but left disappointed. Christian Eriksen's strike late in the first

half put Spurs in front and, in truth, Saints were fortunate not to have trailed by a greater margin at the break.

But they should really have left with a point, only for Sadio Mane to somehow fail

to make contact with his right foot six vards out, as Rvan Bertrand's low cross

#### Oct 18: Saints 8 Sunderland 0



Dusan Tadic is joined by Jack Cork after the Serbian made it 6-0 to Saints.

SAINTS matched their biggest ever victory in their entire Football League history on an unforgettable afternoon at St Mary's.

Santiago Vergini's astonishing volleyed own-goal set them on the way, with Graziano Pelle and Jack Cork making it 3-0 before half-time.

A Liam Bridcutt own-goal made it 4-0,

before Pelle got his second of the match. Dusan Tadic – who provided four assists in the game – then got in on the act when presented with a gift by keeper Vito Mannone. Victor Wanyama powered home number seven, with Patrick van Aanholt being credited with an own-goal

#### Oct 25: Saints 1 Stoke 0



Sadio Mane was the matchwinner for Saints against Stoke.

SADIO Mane bagged his first Saints goal, as the club climbed back up to second place in the Premier League.

Mane thought he had scored his team's eighth in the record-breaking win against Sunderland, only to see it later chalked up as a Patrick van Aanholt own-goal

There was no denying him here, though,

as he side-footed brilliantly into the roof of the net on 33 minutes, after Graziano Pelle's initial shot had rebounded off the

Saints would travel to Stoke a few days later, beating them again, this time 3-2 in a Capital One Cup fixture at the Britannia

#### Nov 1: Hull 0 Saints 1



Victor Wanyama celebrates after his stunning long-range winner.

SAINTS' dream run continued, as they won a closely-fought encounter at Hull.

In the continuation of a notable early

season trend, it was a central midfield player who came up with the goal.

Victor Wanyama certainly won't score many better than this one, slamming home a first-time, 45-yard effort in just the

third minute, after keeper Jakupovic had mis-hit a clearance to him. Saints, who had endured a long week following an energy-sapping double-header against Stoke, weren't at their best for the rest of the game, but they dug in to hold on to yet another victory, which kept them second in the table.

## **Saints**Spotlight

# SET SAINTS ON A WINNING RUN ...

#### Nov 8: Saints 2 Leicester 0



Shane Long was Saints' hero, opening his league account with two goals.

ANOTHER week, another win for Ronald Koeman's men, as they claimed a fourth consecutive Premier League victory.
They had to work hard for it, though,

against a dogged Leicester team who looked as if they would leave St Mary's with a point.

Their resistance was eventually broken

15 minutes from time, however, as Graziano Pelle's lay-off was curled into the far bottom corner by Shane Long from 18 yards.

The forward then sealed the win shortly after, finishing past Kasper Schmeichel after Victor Wanyama's pass had played him in on goal.

#### Nov 24: Aston Villa 1 Saints 1



Nathaniel Clyne kept Saints' unbeaten run going with a thumping late strike.

SAINTS went into a daunting run of fix-tures by maintaining their impressive unbeaten streak with a draw at Villa Park. Ronald Koeman's team would have

hoped for more against their struggling opponents, but in the end were happy with point after trailing for some time.
Fraser Forster's first-half misjudgement

allowed Gabriel Agbonlahor to beat him to a through ball outside the penalty area, go

round him and slot into an empty net.

It took Saints until the 81st minute to get back on level terms, as Nathaniel Clyne powered a strike into the far corner from just inside the area after being picked out by a Ryan Bertrand cut-back.

### Nov 30: Saints 0 Manchester City 3



Eliaquim Mangala and Shane Long challenge for the ball.

FOR the first time in the season, Saints

found themselves really outclassed.

That wasn't true for the whole game, in fairness, as they matched Manchester City in the first-half, with the game goalless at the break.

However, things fell apart after the interval, coinciding with Morgan Schneiderlin

deparing the match injured.
Yaya Toure was given too much space on the edge of the area to fire home the opening goal on 51 minutes

Although Eliaquim Mangala was sent off 16 minutes from time, City still had too much quality and added further goals from Frank Lamapard and Gael Clichy.

#### Dec 3: Arsenal 1 Saints 0



Victor Wanyama outmuscles Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez

SAINTS suffered their cruellest defeat of the season to this point, as Alexis Sanchez struck the only goal of the match right at

Ronald Koeman's team had been more than a match for the Gunners, and were worthy of at least a point.

However, their chances were badly dam-

aged when Toby Alderweireld had to depart with a hamstring injury ten min-utes from time – after Saints had made all their substitutions.

The visitors battled on a man down, but Arsenal took advantage of their strength in numbers, as Sanchez scrambled home an 89th-minute winner.

**DAILY ECHO** Saturday, May 30, 2015

## **Saints**Spotlight

# SAINTS END LOSING RUN WITH SOME

#### Dec 8: Saints 1 Manchester Utd 2



Robin van Persie knocks Manchester United's winning goal past Fraser Forster.

IN the list of unjust defeats Saints suffered during the season, this one had a good claim to be at the top.
Ronald Koeman's side pretty much dom-

inated Manchester United from start to finish, but somehow ended up on the los-

ing side.
They gifted the visitors an early lead, as

Robin van Persie pounced on Jose Fonte's under-hit back pass, but Graziano Pelle slammed home a deserved equaliser from close range before the break.

Saints then wasted chance after chance, before Van Persie got free at the back post to knock a free-kick past Fraser Forster and punish them.

#### Dec 13: Burnley 1 Saints 0



Dusan Tadic holds his head in his hands after seeing his penalty saved.

SAINTS slumped to one of their most disappointing losses of the whole season, as relegation-threatened Burnley edged them 1-0 at Turf Moor.

It was a pretty turgid match from start to finish, but the visitors really should have come away with the three points.

late lead, but he failed to beat keeper Tom Heaton from the penalty spot after Ryan Bertrand had been tripped in the area. Saints were made to pay for that miss shortly afterwards, as Ashley Barnes' shot

from the edge of the area deflected off the heel of Toby Alderweireld and flew past Fraser Forster at his near post.

#### Dec 20: Saints 3 Everton 0



Saints celebrate, as Romelu Lakaku accidentally puts through his own net.

JUST when it looked as though Saints' season was slipping away from them, they produced one of their most important results and performances of the season.

Ronald Koeman's decision to switch to three at the back paid dividends, as his team ran out deserved winners. Romelu Lukaku put into his own net

from a first-half corner to set Saints on their way, before Graziano Pelle was able to turn a shot past Tim Howard in the second half to double the advantage

The icing on the cake was provided in the closing stages by Maya Yoshida, who nodded home from a superb Steven Davis

#### Dec 26: Crystal Palace 1 Saints 3



Ryan Bertrand celebrates his Selhurst Park stunner.

SAINTS kept the Christmas cheer going with a comprehensive win at Selhurst Park on Boxing Day. Sadio Mane, playing through the middle,

caused Palace huge problems and rounded Julian Speroni in the first half to put the visitors 1-0 up.

Ryan Bertrand's thunderous side-footer

then found the top corner just after the interval, before Toby Alderweireld powered home a header soon afterwards to make it 3-0.

Palace did manage to pull a goal back late on, as Scott Dann headed home a free-kick, but it was nothing more than a consolation for the home side.

## **Saints**Spotlight

# GREAT SCALPS OF LEAGUE GIANTS ...

#### Dec 28: Saints 1 Chelsea 1



Sadio Mane's great run continued with a goal against Chelsea

SAINTS finally got a result against one of the Premier League's big boys, as they held Chelsea at St Mary's

They got off to a brilliant start, as Sadio Mane raced onto Dusan Tadic's through pass. and lofted a shot past Thibaut Courtois to put the hosts in front.

Saints couldn't quite hold on until half-

time, though, as Eden Hazard cut in from the left and planted a shot into the bottom

Ronald Koeman's men showed incredible resilience in the second half, with-standing enormous pressure from the Blues, while losing Morgan Schneiderlin to a secoond yellow late on.

#### Jan 1: Saints 2 Arsenal 0



Dusan Tadic celebrates with Harrison Reed after putting Saints 2-0 up.

SAINTS improved their European chances immeasurably with a brilliant win over Arsenal that kept them in the top four.

Sadio Mane made it 1-0, beating keeper Wojciech Szczesny to a ball down the right, before turning and curling in a shot from a seemingly-impossible angle.

The only downside was that the forward

injured himself in the process, resulting in

a few weeks out.

Dusan Tadic was then gifted a goal in the second half, after Szczesny presented the ball to him at close range, allowing him to prod home.

There were a few nervy moments after that, but Saints held firm for a huge win.

#### Jan 11: Manchester United 0 Saints 1



Dusan Tadic is mobbed after scoring Saints' winning goal at Old Trafford.

SAINTS ended a 27-year wait for a league win at Old Trafford, as Dusan Tadic sparked hopes of the club maintaining their

improbable Champions League push.
In what was surely many supporters' highlight of the season, Ronald Koeman's side produced a stunning away performance to triumph

The goal came in the 69th minute, as Dusan Tadic stroked home from 18 yards, after Graziano Pelle had seen his initial

shot rebound off the post.

Juan Mata missed a couple of good chances to equalise late on, but Saints were deserved winners – as Koeman got one over his nemesis, Louis van Gaal

#### Jan 17: Newcastle 1 Saints 2



Eljero Elia goes airborne to celebrate his second goal at Newcastle.

THE improbable run continued, as new signing Eljero Elia fired Saints to a 2-1 victory at Newcastle.
After a week that had seen them produce

away wins at Manchester United and Ipswich, the latter in an FA Cup replay, the team drew upon their reserves of energy to earn another win.

Elia's shot across goal gave them an early lead, before Yoan Gouffran equalised just before half-time, as a clearance hit his knee and flew in.

But Saints weren't to be denied, as Elia fired home via the aid of a deflection from the edge of the area after latching onto Shane Long's flick-on.

18 DAILY ECHO Saturday, May 30, 2015

## **Saints**Spotlight

# SAINTS GOING WELL ... BUT THEN THE

#### Feb 1: Saints 0 Swansea 1



Ryan Bertrand tumbles on a day when Saints themselves stumbled badly.

HAVING come through such a difficult run from late December through January, Saints fell to a deflating loss at home to a depleted Swansea team.

The Welsh club were missing a host of their best players (if you look closely at the photo above, you'll see they were even fielding a player with a squad number of

56), but Saints could not find a way through.

James Ward-Prowse missed the hosts' best chance, with Lukasz Fabianski saving his early side-footed shot. Jonjo Shelvey then shocked them late on

Jonjo Shelvey then shocked them late on with a 25-yard piledriver that arrowed into the top corner.

#### Feb 7: QPR 0 Saints 1



Sadio Mane wheels away after scoring an injury-time winner at Loftus Road.

SADIO Mane gave Saints a dramatic victory at Loftus Road to keep the club's European bid on track.

It had appeared as though it would be a frustrating afternoon for the team in west London, as they could not break down the home side's resistance.

In fact, by the time Mane scored, Saints

could well have been behind, with Fraser Forster forced to make a stunning reaction save from a Charlie Austin flick.

But, deep into injury time, Mane spun and fired a left-footed strike into the roof of the net. QPR did then scramble the ball into the net at the other end in a dramatic finale, only to have it ruled out.

#### Feb 11: Saints 0 West Ham 0



Graziano Pelle rues a missed chance on a frustrating night against West Ham.

WHEN you are a little out of form in front of goal, the sight of a dogged West Ham side arriving at your ground is not exactly the best one to see

So it proved for Saints, as they were unable to break down Sam Allardyce's team on a night when there was further evidence that tension and the pressure of expectation were beginning to take a toll on them.

Saints did create some chances, but not enough, and, even when visiting keeper Adrian was sent off with half an hour left, they were unable to take advantage, as the Hammers sat deeper and deeper, suffocating the game.

#### Feb 22: Saints 0 Liverpool 2



Filip Djuricic was denied an early penalty after a challenge from Joe Allen.

THE poor home form continued, as Liverpool gained ground on Saints in the table.

After Filip Djuricic had one penalty appeal turned down in the opening minute, Philippe Coutinho picked out the top corner from 25 yards to give the Reds an early lead.

Djuricic was then denied a stonewall penalty by referee Kevin Friend after being wiped out by Joe Allen.

Saints continued to push for an equaliser, but, when Matt Targett slipped while clearing a ball in the 73rd minute and presented it straight to Raheem Sterling, the game was put beyond reach for the hosts.

## **Saints**Spotlight

# GOALS BEGAN TO DRY UP SUDDENLY

#### Feb 28: West Bromwich 1 Saints 0



Dusan Tadic looks to the heavens as Saints are beaten at West Brom.

RONALD Koeman watched his side endure a miserable afternoon at the Hawthorns, as they were deservedly beaten.

Saints started with three at the back, but soon changed to their normal set-up after West Brom swarmed all over them in the early stages.

Saido Berahino's third-minute strike put

the hosts 1-0 up, and they really should have extended their lead on a number of occasions.

But Saints did stay in it and, although they didn't deserve anything, they could have snatched a point, only for Graziano Pelle to fail to make simple contact with a ball across the six-yard box late on.

#### Mar 3: Saints 1 Crystal Palace 0



Sadio Mane chips in a late winner against Crystal Palace.

SAINTS' run of nearly six hours without a goal was finally broken, as Sadio Mane struck late on to give his team a valuable win over Crystal Palace.

The forward coolly lifted the ball over Julian Speroni in the 83rd minute, after James Ward-Prowse's shot had rebounded to him off the keeper.

Saints had earlier ridden their luck, as Fraser Forster made a couple of good saves, while Wilfried Zaha hit the post with a shot.

But Mane continued his fine individual form, as he struck late on to send Saints on their team-building break to the Swiss Alps on a high.

#### Mar 15: Chelsea 1 Saints 1



Dusan Tadic strokes home from the penalty spot at Stamford Bridge.

FOR the second time in the season, Saints held the eventual champions Chelsea to a 1-1 draw.

They had to come from behind as well, after Diego Costa headed the Blues into an early lead. Chelsea's advantage was shortlived, though, as Sadio Mane burst into their area and was judged to have been

fouled. Dusan Tadic stepped up and rolled the resulting penalty down the middle and past Thibaut Courtois. Saints had further chances to earn all

Saints had further chances to earn all three points, as the front pair of Mane and Shane Long – Graziano Pelle was dropped – caused huge problems, but a draw was a fair result.

#### Mar 21: Saints 2 Burnley 0



Saints' medical staff tend to the injured Fraser Forster.

SAINTS earned an important win, but it was overshadowed by a serious injury to Fraser Forster.

As he went to clear a ball from his area in the first half, the keeper suffered a massive knee injury, which looks set to keep him sidelined until 2016.

Things got better for the hosts from that

point on, though, with Shane Long diverting in a deflected Nathaniel Clyne shot just before half-time. Jason Shackell later deflected a Rvan

Jason Shackell later deflected a Ryan Bertrand cross into his own net to seal the result, while Forster's replacement, the veteran Kelvin Davis, rolled back the years with a string of fine saves.

**DAILY ECHO** 20 Saturday, May 30, 2015

## **Saints**Spotlight

# SAINTS END SEASON WITH A STUTTER

#### Apr 4: Everton 1 Saints 0



Everton's Phil Jagielka (far left) scores his side's winning goal against Saints.

SAINTS saw their three-match unbeaten run come to an end in a hard-fought encounter at Goodison Park.

They were unfortunate not to take the lead in the first half, as Tim Howard produced one of the saves of the season, leaping and reaching behind himself to claw the ball off the line after Graziano Pelle

had produced a brilliant flick.

Everton edged in front later in the half, as Phil Jagielka scrambled the ball home from close range after getting on the end of a Gareth Barry cut-back. Saints huffed and puffed thereafter, but

never created anything of great signifi-cance, as they fell to a damaging defeat.

#### Apr 11: Saints 2 Hull 0



James Ward-Prowse scores his first ever Premier League goal.

AFTER a goalless first-half, Saints were handed a golden opportunity to take the lead when Shane Long was chopped down in the area by Alex Bruce.

Despite James Ward-Prowse being the nominated penalty taker, Sadio Mane attempted to muscle in and take the spot kick, but the agreed order was quickly

restored and Ward-Prowse duly converted

his first ever Premier League goal.

As the game entered the closing stages, Graziano Pelle – who had gone 14 league games without a goal – fired home to end his barren spell and ensure there were no last-minute nerves for Ronald Koeman's

#### Apr 18: Stoke 2 Saints 1



Morgan Schneiderlin puts Saints in front at the Britannia Stadium.

FOR the first time all season in the league, Saints lost a match that they had led.

Morgan Schneiderlin gave them the lead when he poked home from close range at the back post, after Jose Fonte had flicked on a Steven Davis corner. Steven Nzonzi missed a sitter before half-

time, but Stoke did level after the break, as

Mame Biram Diouf fired home after a speculative Nzonzi shot had looped over Kelvin Davis and come back off the post to

After Saints wasted good chances to retake the lead, Charlie Adam won it for Stoke six minutes from time with a close-

### Apr 25: Saints 2 Tottenham 2



Graziano Pelle beats Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris with a stunning header.

SAINTS twice gave up the lead, as they failed to get what would have been an invaluable victory over European rivals Tottenham and ex-manager Mauricio Pochettino.

Graziano Pelle had given the hosts a first-half advantage, pouncing on embarrassing hesitancy in the Spurs defence to poke past Hugo Lloris from close range, only for Erik Lamela to then divert in an Eric Dier cross

Pelle restored Saints' lead after the break with a towering header from Shane Long's cross, but Nacer Chadli was allowed to get in on the angle and fire into the far bottom

## **Saints**Spotlight

## RATHER THAN A CONFIDENT SWAGGER

### May 2: Sunderland 2 Saints 1



Filip Djuricic escapes the attention of Sunderland midfielder Lee Cattermole.

SAINTS were poor as they saw their European hopes take a hit at the Stadium of

They fell behind early on, as Jordi Gomez converted from the penalty spot after Jose Fonte brought down Danny Graham in the penalty area.

But Saints levelled immediately, Sadio

Mane rolled into an empty net after Costel Pantilimon clattered into his own defender and spilled a long ball.

But the defining moment came in the second half, when James Ward-Prowse was sent off for bringing down Jermain Defoe in the area, allowing Gomez to step up and score from the spot again.

#### May 9: Leicester 2 Saints 0



Ryan Bertrand tries to keep his balance at the King Power Stadium.

ANOTHER loss against another relegation battler left Saints' European bid in further

Kelvin Davis was dropped for Paulo Gazzaniga, who could do nothing about Leicester's opening goal.

Rivad Mahrez was allowed to drift across the pitch too easily, before dispatching a low shot into the far corner.

Gazzaniga did take some of the blame for the Foxes' second goal, slicing a routine learance, which eventually led to Jamie Vardy squaring to an unmarked Mahrez to knock the ball past the Saints keeper.

After that, Ronald Koeman's side never got back into the game.

## May 16: Saints 6 Aston Villa 1



Sadio Mane celebrates the fasteat hat-trick in Premier League history.

SADIO Mane netted a hat-trick in the space of two minutes and 56 seconds – the fastest in Premier League history – as Saints rounded off their season at St Mary's in

style.
The Senegal international's incredible first-half treble put the hosts into an early 3-0 lead, before he provided the assist for

Shane Long to make it 4-0. Long then netted a 40-yard thunderbolt that won the club's goal of the season vote, before Christian Benteke pulled one back for Aston Villa right on half-time

The second half was a duller affair, but there was still time for Graziano Pelle to add a sixth goal late on.

#### May 23: Manchester City 2 Saints 0



Graziano Pelle shows his frustration at the Etihad Stadium.

SAINTS were unable to improve on their seventh-place position on the final day of the Premier League season.

Needing a result to have a chance of leap-frogging either Tottenham or Liverpool, they could not turn a good performance into any points.

After Shane Long missed a good early

chance, Frank Lampard slammed City

into the lead with a trademark goal.

But the visitors dominated proceedings after the break, only to waste a host of good opportunities in the second half. Sergio Aguero nodded in a late second, as Saints' European fate was left hanging on the result of the FA Cup final.

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#### **RESULTS**



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Thursday 9an 4 June, 2015 Names of vinners will be published on Saturday, 6 June 2015

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Competition number \$20

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- N Martin, Chandlers Ford, Hants
- W McDonald, Southampton, Hants
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- L Rouse, Eastleigh, Hants
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## Non league FOOTBALL





## Feeney delighted about Cherries' rise to the top flight

BOLTON Wanderers' ex-Salisbury Feeney winger Liam thrilled to see his old club AFC Bournemouth clinch promotion to the Premier League.

In an interview with Shoot magazine, the 28-year-old said he still searches for Cherries' results - even wall back in 2011.

fourth tier six years ago – Feeney, pictured, marvelled: "It has been amazing

"It's great to see they now have some backing and they are still playing great football.

"Eddie Howe has done an amazing

really enjoyed my time at the club."

Discussing Cherries boss Howe this week voted the League Managers Association boss of the year (see page 31) - Feeney added: "He can be whatever he wants to be.

"He was a great manager when I played under him and so meticulous in everything he did.

"You could tell he was going to be a top manager.

"His record down there is unbeliev-

#### though he left Dean Court for Mill-" I'm pleased for the town. "It's the first result I look for on a Saturday after I've finished my own Discussing Bournemouth's incredible rise to the top flight - which started with promotion from the "I still have friends down there and

# Watersiders pull off transfer coup with defensive signing

## Sam Poole turned down Weymouth offer to move club

**BLACKFIELD & Langley have** signalled the extent of their ambition by signing defender Sam Poole from under the noses of Southern Premier giants Weymouth.

New Watersiders boss Glenn Howes confirmed Poole's arrival at Gang Warily this week, proclaiming him a

"marquee signing".
Poole, a former Weymouth captain, was not a regular fixture in the Terras' first team last season due to the form of fellow centre-backs Calvin Brooks and Jamie Laird.

But boss Jason Matthews still thought highly enough of the "mod-el pro" to offer him renewed terms for 2015-16, which the player turned

Welcoming Poole to Blackfield, Howes said: "Sam's 23 years old, young, hungry, strong, 6ft 3in tall and he can play as well

"He's a marquee signing for us and epitomises the type of player we're

looking to bring in.
"He's been at Weymouth all his life and he needs a change of scenery

"He'll be a leader for us, that's for sure."

Weymouth released a statement on Thursday morning saying Poole had been made "a fair and reasonable offer" to stay at the Bob Lucas Stadium, but it was turned down. Former Eastleigh goalkeeper Mat-

thews said: "He sees his future as lying elsewhere and we wish him all the best.

"The two seasons I had Sam as a player he was a model pro. He feels he would like to play a bit more and I couldn't promise him football every week, but it's sad to see him go. He is a whole-hearted player and very popular among the lads.

With Salisbury joining the Sydenhams Premier next season, Sholing dropping down from the Southern League and Winchester City eager to



**CLOSE ATTENTION: Sam Poole** 

improve on second spot, competition will be hot for the Wessex crown. But Poole's signing is a statement

of intent by Blackfield who, buoyed by the continued financial support of Sam Davies, are determined to repeat their title-winning triumph of

Last season's boss John Robson has turned down the chance to stay at Gang Warily as director of football, preferring to look for another managerial job, while 33-year-old Howes has added two of his playing contemporaries, Lee Chudy and James Ford, to the new-look management team.

Chudy, a well-travelled forward with the likes of Basingstoke, New-port IoW and Wimborne, will share the assistant manager's duties with Farrell, while former Gosport and Winchester midfielder Ford is joining the club as player/first-team

## Salisbury sign two

STEVE Claridge has captured his first signings as Salisbury manager, welcoming Sam Roberts and Lamar Powell to the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

Attacking midfielder Roberts, a product of the Whites youth academy, has returned to Old Sarum from Gosport Borough who loaned him out to Lymington Town last term.

Powell, 21, is an ex-Bristol Rovers striker who spent 2014/15 at Taunton Town, helping the Peacocks to the Southern One South and West play-offs. "These are two good acquisitions," said Claridge, who is building a side from scratch in preparation for the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Meanwhile, ex-Salisbury City defender Brian Dutton is staying at Havant and Waterlooville for another

Dutton was a rock in his first season with the Hawks who, with just 41 league goals conceded, boasted one of the best defensive records in the Conference South.

He counts Eastleigh among



Steve Claridge

## Friendly fixtures

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES 2015

rdav. July 4: Hythe & Dibden Saturday, July 4: Hythe & Dibden v Liss Athletic Thursday, July 9: Clanfield (85) v Eastleigh (7.30) Friday, July 10: Hythe & Dibden v Fawley AFC Saturday, July 11: Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth, Hythe & Dibden Res v Fawley AFC Res, Salisbury, Writch Rouges

& Dibden Res v Fawley AFC Áes, Salisbury v Bristol Rovers Tuesday, July 14: Basingstoke Town v AFC Wimbledon, Hythe & Dibden v OK Southampton, Laverstock & Ford v Salisbury Saturday, July 18: East Preston v Fareham Town, Havant & Waterlooville v Eastleigh, Hythe & Dibden v Sholing, Moneyfields v Colliers Wood Utd Monday, July 20: Gosport Colliers Wood Uid
Monday, July 20: Gosport
Borough v Luton Town
Tuesday, July 21: Amesbury
Town v AFC Bournemouth XI
(7.30), Eastleigh v Newport
County, Gillingham Town v
Whitchurch Utd, Salisbury v AFC
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## Non league FOOTBALL



## Cherries' friendly

SYDENHAMS Premier newcomers Salisbury have an extra special pre-season friendly in the pipeline.

Eddie Howe will be taking s Premier League new boys AFC Bournemouth to the

on Tuesday, July 21. "This is a real coup. It's fantastic for us," smiled Salisbury boss Steve Claridge

"I am assured it will be a strong team and we are extremely grateful to Eddie

"Eddie has done a magnificent job in winning the Championship with reflected in him being awarded such a prestigious honour as Manager of the Year by his peers (the LMA). I couldn't be happier."

Salisbury will also be velcoming Eastleigh to the Ray Mac on Tuesday, July 28. This comes on top of a visit

from Bristol Rovers on Saturday, July 11. Rovers are managed by ex-Salisbury City boss Darrell Clarke.

Three days after hosting Laverstock on July 14



## **Promoting** members

HYTHE & Dibden have promoted three key members of last season's reserve side into the first-team squad for next season.

Adam French, Michael Baker and Billy Lawrence will get their chance to stake their claim for a place.

All three have been recommended to new boss Gary Wheatcroft by club secretary Scott Johnston and former reserve boss Aaron Fry who have joined him on the management team.



## Borough look to the future with development squad

GOSPORT Borough are teaming up with Gosport Falcons Youth FC to launch a new development squad.

Last season the Conference South club ran an under-18 side in the Hampshire Youth League along with a second team in the Portsmouth Youth League – plus academy teams in the Football Conference Youth Alliance and the University/ Colleges League.

These teams will now be joined by Gosport Falcons under-16s who are moving up to under-18 level under the Borough umbrella to play in the Hampshire Youth League.

Falcons manager Charlie Goulding will also work with Borough's Terry Pyke to run the club's new development squad in an attempt to bridge the gap be-tween youth and senior football.

"This is a good step forward for the club," explained Gosport boss Alex Pike, left. "We had to disband the reserves a few seasons ago because the step from the Wessex Combination to the Conference was just too much.

"With a development squad we can pull in the best of our youth players and, with permission from other managers. draft in vounger players from Wessex League sides.

'We need to build the infrastructure to supply the first team with the next generation of players. I believe the de-

velopment squad will help us do that."
Initially the development squad's fixtures will be played on a friendly basis against clubs such as Basingstoke, Farnborough and Dorchester.

# **Promoted Blues overjoyed** at return to Wessex League

### Islanders look to consolidate after decade absence

PORTLAND United are overjoyed to be back in the Sydenhams Wessex League after an absence of nearly a decade.

The Blues will take their place in Division One next term alongside newcomers AFC Stoneham.

Portland last played Wessex football nine years ago when they finished bottom of the 2005/06 top flight, having won only two out of their 42 games and conceded a whopping 139

The previous season, 2004/05, they had finished second bottom.

"It's obviously an exciting time for everyone at the club. A lot of the players have been waiting a while for this," said boss Gary Bailey.

"They have been loyal and waited to go up to the Wessex League with Portland United. It's a new challenge for them and me.

"I back the squad and I'm confident we will go out there and give a good account of ourselves.

#### BRANCH OUT

"It was time to branch out having been at the top of the Dorset Premier for so long," he added. "Most of the lads have indicated they are keen to stay at the club."

Bailey insists Portland will not be trying to run before they can walk

The last time the club played in the Wessex League the structure was very different, there was only one division back then," he said.

"They did well for the first couple of seasons, but then circumstances

Portland's inclusion this time around originally depended on them upgrading their floodlights at Grove

Corner by September. They now have until March 31 next year to do that. That means the Islanders are guaranteed at least one season in the Wessex

to make the required improvements.

Portland - whose previous Wessex League spell spanned five seasons, starting in 2001/02 after leaving the Dorset Combination - secured promotion after finishing runners-up to Hamworthy Recreation in the Dorset Premier League.

went against them and they decided to drop out. It's a more gradual process this time and we'll look to get a season or two in Division One under

The club will hear next week whether or not they have been successful in securing a Football Foundation grant

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TEAM'S WANTED



## Non league FOOTBALL





## Bulk of Wimborne squad sign up for next campaign

WIMBORNE Town boss Steve Cuss has the bulk of his Southern One South & West squad signed on again for next season.

Goalkeeper Jason Harvell and top scorer Mark Gamble, pictured left, have already committed for 2015/16.

They have been followed by James Stokoe, Ian Oliver, Scott Arnold, Adam Costello, Billy Maybury, Jon Blake, Sam Griffin and Paul Roast.

Discussions are ongoing with other squad members and Cuss is hope-

ful of having some new additions on board when pre-season training starts on Thursday, July 2.

#### TWO AWARDS

Harvell picked up two of the main awards at the club presentation night, scooping players' player and manager's player-of-the-season.

manager's player-of-the-season. Stokoe got the supporters' vote, Maybury was named manager's young player and ex-Eastleigh man Oliver walked away with the chairman's player-of-the-season prize.

 Wimborne, meanwhile, have appointed Simon Plank as their new commercial manager.

The Magpies are keen to hear from anyone interested in sponsoring or advertising with the club.

Plank can be contacted at info@ wimbornetownfc.co.uk or you can telephone Ken Fergus on 07923

# Cherries' Arter gives hope to non-league players' dreams

# Midfielder's pride in promotion from seasons of work

AFC BOURNEMOUTH'S Harry Arter hopes his massive ascent up the footballing ladder will convince non-League diamonds that they can reach the top flight of English football.

The all-action midfielder was five years ago plying his trade for Woking in the Conference South and making trips to the likes of Eastleigh and Havant & Waterlooville, writes Ned Payne.

However, Arter's £4,000 move to Cherries in 2010 proved a turning point and, two promotions later, the 25-year-old is in contention to battle with established Premier League stars such as Cesc Fabregas and Mesut Ozil.

It has been a remarkable turnaround for a player who almost turned his back on the game following his release by Charlton in 2009.

Now Arter hopes that his rollercoaster journey will inspire others in a similar situation.

"I have got friends who I still speak to from the lower leagues and it probably gives them a little bit of hope to see what I have managed to do," he said.

"To go from non-League to the Premier League in five years is a really good story and will hopefully inspire players, especially youngsters that have taken the step down to non-League

"My career shows that if you do work hard and get a few lucky breaks, then anything's possible"

then anything's possible."
Having paid his dues lower down the ladder, Arter feels his appreciation of Cherries' top-flight berth could not be any greater.

And the combative former Addick says he is far from an isolated case in the Dean Court set. up

the Dean Court set-up.
"When I played in the Conference
South, the Premier League seemed
a million miles away but, having
earned promotion this season.

"I appreciate it so much because of



Harry Arter keeps his eye on the ball.

where I've come from," he added.

"I don't know what it would mean to someone to get promoted if they had played in the Championship all their life, but I know what it meant to me.

"It was the best thing that's ever happened to me.

"I don't know whether that was

entirely because of the journey I've had, but I'm sure that played a part in it

"Players that have been playing in the Premier League all their careers, and even young players that have come through academy systems, probably don't appreciate how it is at other clubs or at a lower level.

"I definitely appreciate how hard it is to be a Premier League player – and that goes for the majority of players in our squad.

"There isn't anyone that hasn't had to work really hard to get where they

## Gritt joins Ebbsfleet

EX-EASTLEIGH skipper Daryl McMahon has appointed Steve Gritt as his assistant manager at Ebbsfleet United.

The Dorset-born former Charlton Athletic boss, 57, began his playing career at his home town club Bournemouth before going to play for Charlton and Walsall.

Gritt has also managed Brighton and Hove Albion and Millwall (caretaker) and had served as Ebbsfleet's chief scout since November 2014. McMahon said: "Gritty has a

wealth of experience and is a fantastic professional."

■ BRETT Poate has signed a new two-year deal for National League (Conference) South club Gosport Borough.

The ex-Saints, Havant and Waterlooville and Eastleigh defender has been a mainstay of Borough's rearguard since arriving at Privett Park in 2011.

His commanding performances are one of the reasons Alex Pike's men had the meanest defence in the division in 2014/15 with just 40 goals conceded in as many games.



Daryl McMahon

# Six-a-side tourney

holiday weekend for the Bishops Waltham Dynamos.

More than a thousand players from 155 teams descended on the Hoe Road Recreation Ground for the club's annual six-a-side

#### WINNERS

Under-9s: Locks Heath Lions Under-10s: Sarisbury Sparks Black

Under-11s: Soccer4All Youth FC Tigers

Under-12s: Pickwick Youth Blue beat Pickwick Youth Red 1-0 Under-13s: Crofton Saints Blue beat Havant & Waterlooville 3-2 Under-14s: Botley Village beat East Lodge Hurricanes 1-0 Under-15s: Hatch Warren Phoenix beat Botley Village 1-0 Under-15 girls: Didcot Casuals beat BW Dynamos 4-0 Under-21s: Parley Sports beat BW Dynamos 4-0 Under-21s: Parley Sports beat BW Dynamos U21 A 2-1 Adults: Fleetland Reserves B beat Havant & Waterlooville 2-0.

## Non league FOOTBALL





## QPR forward Austin makes it into Hodgson's squad

TOM Killick cut Charlie Austin down to size on the golf course – and then congratulated the former Poole Town star on his maiden England call-up.

Dolphins boss Killick, pictured left, and Tatnam legend Taffy Richardson condemned Austin and his former Poole teammate Micky Hubbard – now of Winchester City – to a match play defeat at Broadstone Golf Club.

Less than 24 hours later Austin, who hit 64 goals in 57 Dolphins appearances during 2008 and 2009, was named in Roy Hodgson's 24-man squad to face the Republic of Ireland and Slovenia.

Killick was among the first to offer his congratulations to the 17-goal QPR frontman and insisted Austin's place in the national set-up had been richly deserved. "It's an unbelievable achievement," said the Tatnam boss. "Everyone has doubted him at every stage of his career, partly because of where he's come from. "Everyone felt there was a limit to how much progress he could make.

"But he has coped with each step he's

made so well and I think he deserves all the recognition that comes his way.

"Having been named in the squad, I dearly hope he gets the opportunity to earn his first cap.

"I know Charlie is keen to be recognised for his achievements as a professional footballer and I think it is time that happened. It's not about forgetting where he's come from – it's more about the fact he deserves it.

"I don't think anyone can argue that he doesn't deserve the opportunity."

# Youth trial invitation

AFC TOTTON are about to launch into trials for next season's Hampshire Youth League under-18 side.

Open trial sessions will be held at Testwood Recreation Ground, Totton, on Tuesdays, June 2 and 9 (6.30pm-8pm).

A third and final trial, which will be invitation only, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at the same time.

Interested players are asked to ring Shawn Kitcher on 07824 668747 or email him at skitcher7@sky.com.

Please state your name, age, contact number, the position you play and your previous club.

■ THE Alresford Six-a-Side Football League is looking for teams for the new summer season, starting in June.

Games will be played on Tuesday and Wednesday nights on the Astroturf pitches at Perins School, New Alresford

Open to all teams from the local community, players of all standards are welcome. Info from 01937 841440, email info@footballmundial.com or visit footballmundial.com.



Shawn Kitche

# Kingpin to join mates

FORMER Eastleigh captain and defensive kingpin Dean Beckwith will have no shortage of ready-made friends at his new club Sutton United.

Former team-mates Jamie Collins and Glen Southam are already playing at Gander Green Lane, while manager Paul Doswell, his assistant Steve Beck, goalkeeping coach Wayne Shaw and head coach lan Baird all previously worked together on the Silverlake Stadium management staff.

management staff.
Beckwith, one of several
Spitfires to don the captain's
armband during the course of
last season, was among
seven players released in the
wake of the Conference
Premier play-off semi-final
defeat against Grimsby.
He was an unused sub in

He was an unused sub in the play offs against the

# Perfect timing for Stoneham promotion, says president

## Going up would be much tougher next season

AFC STONEHAM were some way short of winning the Hampshire Premier League title last season, winding up in fourth spot.

But having toiled long and hard to get their Chestnut Avenue facilities up to Wessex League standard, they needed to strike while the iron was bot

Together with Dorset Premier League outfit Portland United, they are one of two new clubs to be accepted into Sydenhams One for 2015/16.

President/secretary Geoff Smith, who first joined Stoneham 49 years ago during their Ordnance Survey days, explained: "We had to go up this year because next season competition for promotion will be tougher. I'd imagine there will be at least three or four HPL sides looking to get into the Wessex.

"Hamble Club are ambitious and I know Baffins Milton Rovers are keen to get up."

Stoneham finished some 30 points short of HPL champions Hamble last term but, with the rapidly expanding club now catering for 16 teams, there is every cause for optimism going forward.

ward.

"We lost every player we had when our old manager left, and (current boss) Adam Pullinger has played a big part in putting a good side together having had to start from scratch again," said Smith.

"We've managed to quickly rebuild

"We've managed to quickly rebuild and, although we're not quite at the level we were, we're not far off. We've got a promising young side and the whole youth set-up has exploded.

"We finished runners-up in the Hampshire Youth League Division One and we've got three other Southampton youth sides going right down to Tyro."

With another ground move on the horizon, Stoneham – led by enthusiastic new chairman Mark Stupple – have had to upgrade their Elliotts Arena home with no outside backing.



Stoneham's John Cole, left, in action against Stockbridge.

During Smith's eventful half century with the club, Stoneham's travels have taken them from the Civil Service Ground in Shirley to Lordshill Rec and on to Stoneham Park which they left at the end of 2009/10.

"We're on another building site now," said Smith. "But we're in consultation with the council and, by the end of it, we'll be moved to either Hardmoor or Monks Brook with a brand new Wessex facility.

"The dilemma for us last season revolved around how much work we should put into the current ground, knowing that we are going to get a new one in the long term.

"In the end we got it up to Step 6 standard by ourselves because we couldn't get grants with the time scales we had.

"We've worked very closely with the Wessex League to get where we

## Non league FOOTBALL





## Former Romsey boys impress at Whitchurch United

EX-ROMSEY Town duo Brad Snelling and Danny Phillips made a strong impression in their first season at Whitchurch United

The former Bypass boys picked up five awards between them at the Jam Boys' end-of-season presentation evening.

Striker Phillips, left, claimed the golden boot after amassing an impressive 25 goals – a feat that caught the eye of boss Carl Bennett who presented him with the manager's player-of-the-year prize.

Goalkeeper Snelling, meanwhile, was

voted supporters' player and players' player after a magnificent season between the posts.

Snelling then made it a hat-trick of trophies when he collected the Jackman Cup, presented by owner Brian Jackman, for being the north Hampshire outfit's most consistent player.

Josh Harfield - an ex-Winchester City youngster – rounded off the awards, re-ceiving the most improved player prize. Considering ex-Romsey boss Ben-

nett had to virtually build a team from

scratch last summer, the Jam Boys enjoyed an amazingly good 2014/15 cam-

They finished sixth - seven places higher than the previous season – and narrowly missed out on a trophy when beaten on penalties by Winchester City in the North Hants Senior Cup final.

Jackman is delighted with the team's progress under Bennett. "Carl has exceeded the committee's aspirations of finishing mid-table by finishing sixth out of 21 teams," he said.

# Young boss aims to defy the expectations at Stoneham

## Pullinger grateful for the experience of men round him

AT just 23 years of age, it's safe to say AFC Stoneham's Adam Pullinger will be one of, if not the youngest, bosses in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

Remarkably he already has three years of management under his belt and, all told, has served the Chestnut Avenue outfit for six years in various capacities, writes WENDY GEE.
Wessex One football will be a new

experience for Pullinger but, like all successful managers, he has good, experienced people around him.

Chairman Mark Stupple – former AFC Totton vice-chairman and Sholing reserves boss – is described as a "godsend" by the young manager, while the ex-Alresford Town coach Carl Whittington knows all about delivering Wessex success on a shoe-

"I'm delighted the club's gone up considering that at Christmas-time we were up against the wall funding-

wise," said Pullinger.
"We had no external funding for ground improvements and had to do it all over a six-week period, which was a massive task.

"The chairman Mark Stupple, who also runs our reserves, has been a godsend. His organisational skills alone have got us where we are on and off the pitch.

'We've got a lot of good people here. Carl Whittington has made a difference since he joined us as first-team coach at Christmas.

"He achieved a lot with Tim [Cole] and Danny [Robinson] at Alresford and came to us from Winchester City.

"He was a big appointment for us looking to go into the Wessex League.

After the high of winning the Southampton Senior Cup and finishing Hampshire Premier League run-ners-up three seasons ago, Pullinger took up the reins when previous bosses James Banks and Terry Chapman moved on to Stockbridge.

"We lost the whole squad but we



Adam Pullinger, right.

managed to keep our heads above water and brought in players with an average age of 20 to 22 who were on the edge of Wessex football," Pullinger explained.

To finish fourth in the Hampshire Premier League this season and win the League Cup against Baffins Milton Rovers [2-0 at Gosport] was

very positive. "It would have been nicer to have finished higher, but we've done well with a brand new squad who are all young and all socialise together.

"With the average age being as it is, we could do with five or six additions

going into the Wessex League, but there's no great expectation on us,' he added.

"We've had to run very quickly this

year and now we can consolidate.
"The dangers of trying to move forward too quickly have been shown in

## **Plumhoof** triumphs

BURRIDGE AFC are celebrating their 25th anniversary with promotion to the Hampshire Premier League.

After finishing third behind BTC Southamp-ton and Comrades in the Drew Smith Southampton League Premier Division, the club are heading for county football for the

first time in their history. Burridge's rise in status owes much to manager Colin Plumhoff who has worked around the clock to get the Saturday

side where it is today. When Plumhoff took over as manager in 2012 he had only three weeks to assemble a side before the season started.

They had a close shave with relegation that year, finishing second to bottom and only staying up because two teams pulled out of the league.

Burridge improved massively to third in Plumhoff's second season and lost on penalties in the Supplementary Cup final.

Now they have a future in the Hampshire Premier League Division One to look forward to.

A delighted Plumhoff said: "This has been a fantastic season.

'We put together a reserve team this season for the first time and our aim was for the first team to finish in the top three and for our reserves to avoid relegation. We achieved it on both counts, so I'm very proud of the squad we have, but we need to strengthen for next sea-

Burridge – based at The Shed in Botley Road (SO31 1BS) – will start pre-season with two open club trials on Saturdays, July 18 and 25.

They are also looking for a reserve team manager and people to help out on matchdays.

Sponsorship is also needed to help take them to the next level.

An FA Charter Standard Club, Burridge boast good facilities with new goals, dugouts and clubhouse

They are looking to get a tea hut up and running and sponsorship would go a long way to achieving that. Anyone interested in assisting the club or attending trials can contact Plumhoff on 07949 066946 or email burridgeafc12@ hotmail.co.uk

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**Daily Echo** 

30 PINK DAILY ECHO Saturday, May 30, 2015



FLASHBACK: The scene at Heysel on May 29, 1985, after a wall had collapsed at the European Cup final.

CAST your eyes over the sparkling all-seater stadia that scatter the Premier League landscape like diamonds – Saints' St Mary's being just one of them – and you could be forgiven for thinking the dark days of the 1980s never happened.

In this era of billion-pound TV rights, the biggest concerns facing top-flight fans involve extortionate ticket prices and the increasing buy-up of the game's soul by brigades of prawn sandwich-eating executives.

Sometimes it is hard to imagine

Sometimes it is hard to imagine that as recently as thirty years ago going to a game of football could turn out to be a matter of life and death: the fire which ripped through a rickety wooden stand at Bradford and claimed 56 lives; four years later, the unimaginable horrors of Hillsborough.

Within the series of tragedies which left an indelible stain on the

Within the series of tragedies which left an indelible stain on the game and the reputations of those who governed and policed it, what happened at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels on May 29 1985 rests somewhat uneasily.

Not for the shocking negligence

Not for the shocking negligence with which the authorities allowed the 1985 European Cup final

#### Heysel – what they said ... Heysel – what they said ... Heysel – what they said

"It wasn't until we were leaving the ground and there were ambulances everywhere and blue lights flashing, and lines and lines of soldiers and policeman, that it became clear it was something serious," - lifelong Liverpool fan John Mackin.

"We have reached the stage now where football is at the crossroads. We cannot and are not willing to let this game be killed by irresponsible elements who have no place in football stadiums," - UEFA secretary Hans Bangerter, 1985

"The players knew about all of the events that night, including that people had died. We should never have played the game. Uefa insisted because they believed that the violence could have continued in the streets. But I certainly said I did not want to play," - Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

between Liverpool and Juventus to be played at such an horrifically inadequate and eminently unsafe venue.

Not for the incomprehensible decision to go ahead with the game while the bodies of the 39 innocent victims were still being counted, and the unpalatable frivolities which greeted both Michel Platini's penalty winner and the presentation of the trophy itself.

tion of the trophy itself.

But for the blame and guilt which
swirled among supporters in its
aftermath; understandable emotions which were still palpable 20
years on when the two clubs met
for the first time since the tragedy
in a Champions League quarterfinal at Anfold

final at Anfield.

Liverpool fans held placards spelling the word "Amicizia" -

"Friendship" - and while the gesture was applauded by a large number of Juventus supporters, there were others who made a very public point of turning their backs.

The events of the night have been decreased earnested.

The events of the night have been documented countless times but no amount of poring over the finer details will ever summon a sufficient answer - a cause not helped by the absence of an official inquiry - to the question of how on earth it was allowed to happen.

was allowed to happen.
Liverpool fans told of gaining access to the crumbling stadium through holes in the perimeter wall; fans were kept apart by hopelessly inadequate stretches of chicken wire fencing, and the terraces were strewn with rubble.

Missiles were being hurled by both sides long before a charge from Liverpool supporters led panicking Italian fans to retreat and be crushed by a wall which toppled under the pressure.

Memories of the night have always sat awkwardly at Anfield, a stadium whose acquaintance to tragedy is movingly evident in the eternal flame and red marble memorial to the victims of Hillsborough.

Reference to Heysel is, understandably, harder to find: a small memorial plaque dedicated to the Heysel victims is inside the club museum, with the shirt worn by Kenny Dalglish on the night draped alongside.

If Liverpool as a club and a city struggled to come to terms with the events of that night in Brussels, English football as a whole was destined to never be the same again.

While events at Bradford and

Hillsborough were to have a more direct effect on the ushering-in of a new era of all-seater stadia, Heysel focused the mind on hooliganism.

focused the mind on hooliganism.
Heysel caused all English clubs to
be banned from Europe for five
years, with Liverpool serving an
additional one year exclusion, a
move which effectively ended an
era of unprecedented dominance by
English clubs in continental competitions

Under the enthusiastic leadership of Margaret Thatcher, the British government passed a swathe of new laws designed to prevent known troublemakers attending matches abroad.

ing matches abroad.

There were repercussions within UEFA too, with long-serving general secretary Hans Bangerter given a three-month suspended sentence by a Belgian court for negligence leading to involuntary manslaughter.

ter.

New generations of fans weaned exclusively in all-seater stadia must read the accounts of what happened at Heysel and wonder how on earth it came to pass in the name of football.

While blame and guilt inevitably still linger in some quarters when discussions turn to the blackest of football nights, in that respect, at least, the lessons have been learned.

## Another Great Honour for Ed

CHERRIES boss Eddie Howe received yet another accolade this week in the wake of mastermind-ing an incredible promotion to the Premier League.

Howe was named as only the

fifth man in history from outside the Premier League to win the League Managers Association boss of the year prize.

Here, the Daily Echo looks back at all the former winners.

#### Joe Kinnear (Wimbledon)

Kinnear won the first ever LMA award after guiding the perenially unfashionable Dons to sixth place in the Premier League.

Wimbledon finished two places ahead of Liverpool, with the likes of Chelsea (14th), Tottenham (15th) and Manchester City (16th) encased in the bottom half of the

How times change!

Two of the five clubs who finished above Wimbledon are now in the Championship – Blackburn and Leeds.

#### 1995: Frank (Nottingham Forest) Clark

Just 12 months after master-minding Forest's promotion from the second tier at the first attempt, Clark won the award after Forest finished third in the Premier

#### 1996: Peter Reid (Sunderland)

One of only five LMA seasonal winners to have come from outside the Premier League.

The one-time Saints midfielder was chosen for his acheivement in guiding the Black Cats to the Championship title.

#### 1997: Danny Wilson (Barnsley)

The former Northern Ireland international became the second manager from outside the top flight to win the award.

It was recognition for his amazing achievement in taking unfashionable Barnsley into the Premier League as second tier runners-up.

The fairytale only lasted one season, with the Tykes relegated 12 months later.

#### 1998: Dave Jones (Saints)

A surprising choice, Jones winning the LMA award after he guided Saints to 12th in the Premier League.

He remains the joint-lowest placed top flight manager to have won the prize.

#### 1999: Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)

Not a surprising choice at all, as Ferguson was honoured after masterminding United's historic treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League.

#### 2000: Alan Curbishley (Charlton Athletic)

Curbishley became the third man from outside the top flight to scoop the LMA prize, for his achivement in guiding the Addicks to the second tier title ahead of Manchester City.



2001: George Burley (Ipswich

Burley, who would later manage Saints, guided the Tractor Boys to a fifth place finish just 12 months after winning the second tier play off final.

No promoted club has ever finished as high again, and probably won't for quite a few years.

Arsène Wenger (Arsenal)

The Frenchman won the award for the first time after leading Arsenal to the Premier League title, where they boasted an undefeated away record.

#### 2003: David Moves (Everton) Everton finished only seventh but that was still enough to give

Moyes the honour

(Arsenal)

As the Gunners won the Premier League without losing a game, Wenger was a shoe-in to win the LMA prize for the second time in

#### 2005: David Moves (Everton)

A second award in three years for Moyes as well, after guiding Everton to a fourth place finish and what remains their only Champions League campaign.

2006: Steve Coppell (Reading) Again, the LMA looked outside the top flight for their main man -Coppell honoured after leading Reading to the Championship title with a record points total.

#### 2007: Steve Coppell (Reading)

Coppell remains the only manager to have won the LMA award in successive years.
In the Berkshire club's debut

Premier League season, they finished an impressive eighth - just above Pompey and Bolton.

#### 2008: Alex (Manchester United)

No thinking outside the box for the LMA this season, the award going to the manager of the Premier League champions for the first time since 2004.

#### 2009: David Moyes (Everton)

A third LMA success for the Goodison Park boss, who guided Everton to a fifth place finish and the FA Cup final.

#### 2010: Roy Hodgson (Fulham)

The current England boss won the LMA prize after Fulham fin-

the LIMA prize after Tallian.

shed 12th.

The award, though, was more in honour of Hodgson's feat in guiding the Cottagers to the Europa League final.

The highlight of a punishing 19game Euro programme was a two legged win over Juventus, when Fulham lost the first leg 3-1 Turin but stunned the Italian giants 4-1 in west London.

Fulham were beaten 2-1 in the final by Atletico Madrid.

## (Manchester United) A third LMA success for the leg-

endary Old Trafford boss after another Premier League title vic-

#### 2012: Alan Pardew (Newcastle

United)
Two short years after starting Saints' rehabilitation in League 1, Pardew was handed the LMA prize after Newcastle finished a surprising fifth in the Premier League.

How the Toon Army would love a return to those days!

#### 2013: Ferguson (Manchester United)

A record breaking fourth LMA award for Ferguson after his last Premier League title.

#### 2014: Brendan Rodgers (Liverpool)

Rodgers won the LMA award after Liverpool scored over a century of Premier League goals in finishing runners-up to Manchester City. How the Anfield faithful would

love a return to those days!

#### 2015: Eddie Howe (Bournemouth)

The fifth man from outside the top flight to win the LMA award. Howe was a deserving winner for his remarkable achievement in masterminding Cherries' promotion to the Premier League.



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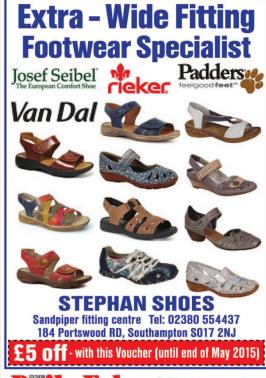
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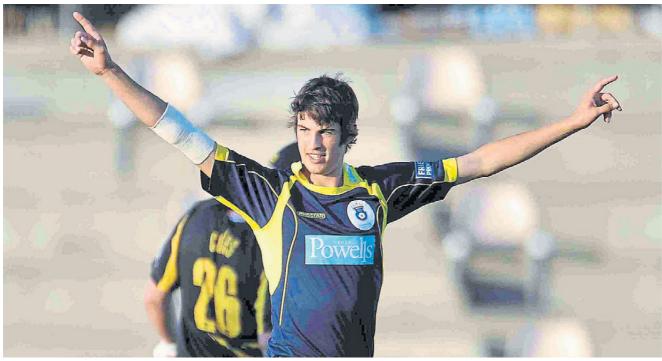
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## **HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015**









CAREER-BEST: Chris Wood took a career-best 4-16 in Friday night's T20 win against Glamorgan at The Swalec Stadium

# Wood's Cardiff joy

CHRIS Wood admitted he loves playing in Cardiff after another match-winning performance at the Swalec Stadium.

The left-armer took a career-best 4-16 as Hampshire bounced back from last week's shock defeat against Kent with a 21-run win against Glamorgan.

Wood has starred in Cardiff on several occasions. He finished with 3-26 following an outstanding display of death bowling against Yorkshire in the 2012 T20 final.

He also helped clinch the LV County Championship's division two title there with 6-74 – including 4-42 in the first innings - at the end of last sea-

And now he has a second limitedovers career-best at the Swalec Stadium, having taken 5-22 there in a 40-over group game three years ago.

"I love coming here and taking wickets," he said. "It suits my bowling, it's slightly on the slower side so I can bring in my variations which seem to work every time I come here."
Wood took the important wickets

of former Bournemouth star Chris Cooke and the dangerous Colin Ingram during an excellent three-over powerplay spell (3-0-13-2).

"It swung early on which I've strug-gled to do for the last five or six weeks," continued the 24 year-old, whose bowling efforts followed an important 18 not out from 13 balls – after he had been dropped on 12. "I've been struggling for rhythm, but it's always swung for me here. It's a good



WINNER: Chris Wood with the T20 trophy he helped win in Cardiff in 2012

ground for me all round - a few runs too which is very unusual!

After returning to bowl the 18th over with Glamorgan 105-6, chasing 149. Wood settled any doubt by dismissing Wayne Parnell and Andrew Salter with his last two deliveries.

Speaking to Radio Solent, he continued: "It's about time, I struggled a bit in the first two games so it's nice to put in a match-winning performance for the boys.

"It's a format I love and I back myself 100 per cent. I'd have liked to get five but I'm on a hat-trick next time!"

Hampshire had been 20-3 after losing the toss but Sean Ervine's 49 (35 balls) helped ensure Wood had a total to bowl at.

"It was an unbelievable knock from Slug to anchor it," continued Wood. "We thought 148 was still below par but the wicket was deteriorating and was slower than we thought. "I'm glad they won the toss because

we didn't have a clue what we were going to do on that! It's usually dry and slow here but we thought it could do anything.

"They tend to back themselves bowling first but somehow we managed to get a score and fortunately defended it unbelievably well.

"We thought the outfield would be a bit quicker and the ball might skid on off the wicket but it didn't seem to do that.

'We stuck to our game plans and I took a lot from how Graham Wagg bowled at me, with a a lot of slower balls. It was really tough to hit." With Glamorgan 84-4, needing 65

from 40 balls, a 25-minute break for rain delayed Hampshire. But it was not long enough to result in a revised calculation.

"We hoped the rain wouldn't go past the half-hour because Duckworth-Lewis never seems to work in our favour!" added Wood.

Glamorgan captain Jacques Rudolph was caught and bowled in the only over from Sean Ervine after adding 69 from 58 balls in a fourthwicket alliance with Mark Wallace.

"We were happy chasing 148 but losing three early wickets put us be-hind," he said. "I thought the partnership we had got us back in the game, but we lost momentum again when the rain came."

## Hants in benefit tie

HAMPSHIRE tied a T20 friendly with Andover CC as part of Jimmy Adams' benefit

A strong team including Fidel Edwards, James Vince, Liam Dawson, Sean Ervine, Danny Briggs and Adam Wheater played against the Southern Electric Premier League side at London Road. on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon.

Hampshire made 212-5 after winning the toss.

Adams teamed up well with

Michael Carberry as Hampshire set the home side more than ten an over after James Knight and Aidan Jansen took early wickets.

Ali Hooper, Darron Augustus and Dave Taylor all contributed.

But it was Max Souster who stole the show with an unbeaten century - including a huge six off the last ball to

Alongside the cricket there were also coaching masterclasses, live music from Echotape and a barbecue and bar throughout the day.

Adams tweeted: "Huge thanks to @AndoverCricket and all involved for putting on a fantastic benefit match. Great day all round."



Jimmy with Max Souster

## Bird bow v Martlets?

HAMPSHIRE are hopeful that Jackson Bird will finally make his debut in next week's LV County Championship derby against Sussex at Hove.

Australian had The hoped to play in the four-dayer against Worcestershire that begins at the Ageas Bowl on Sunday after taking his first wickets in a Hampshire shirt on Tuesday.

Bird, 28, took 1-21 and 1-37 in the Second XI's back-to-back T20 wins against MCC Young Cricketers after six weeks out with a shoulder/neck injury.

He will play in the threeday Second Eleven Championship match against Surrey at Wimbledon CC. which begins on Monday.

## **HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015**









FIRST COUNTY: Chris Gayle during one of his three LV County Championship appearances for Worcestershire in 2005

# Warning: Gayle's set for Taunton

Hampshire are heading into their biggest week of the season - ending with a clash against Chris Gavle.

The West Indies superstar made a typically eye-catching T20 Blast debut on Friday night, smashing a 59-ball 92 as Somerset beat Essex by three wickets in a last-ball thriller

at Chelmsford, writes Simon Walter.
Opening the batting with Marcus Trescothick, Gayle blasted six sixes as well as eight fours before Lewis Gregory scored the winning run against Ravi Bopara off the final delivery.

Hampshire are now looking forward to being the opposition when Gayle makes his Taunton debut on Friday night.

The prospect of Gayle taking on a Hampshire attack including his former West Indies teammate Fidel Edwards is sure to make for another memorable contest between the counties.

After losing their opening game at home to Sussex by ten runs, Somerset will be looking forward to unleashing Gayle on the best batting track in the country.

But it will not be the first match against Hampshire. Gayle, who is



FAMILIAR POSE: Chris Gayle celebrating a century for the West Indies

expected to play six T20 matches for Somerset, has played a couple of 50-over friendlies in these parts

In June 2000, he top scored with 47 as West Indies beat a Hampshire side including Shane Warne and current director of cricket Giles White, by four wickets in a tour match at Northlands Road. Gayle was only 20 at the time and was dismissed by Alan Mullally a week after playing the fourth of his 103 Tests in the opening game of Curt-ly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh's farewell series at Edgbaston.

Gayle also played for the West Indies against Hampshire in an

ICC Champions Trophy warm-up at Chapel Gate, Bournemouth in September 2004, making 12 before Chris Tremlett bowled him.

But he had not made his T20 debut then.

During the last decade, he has become the world's leading run scorer in the shortest format, with 7,558 at an average of 42 and an incredible strike rate of 147 per 100 balls. To put that in context, the next nearest global aggregate is Brad Hodge's 6,363.

He has certainly come a long way since his only other stint of county

In September 2005 he scored 192 runs at 32, including two fifties, in the LV County Championship's second division for Worcestershire Hampshire's opponents at the Ageas Bowl from Sunday.

Only six points separate the two promoted teams in the first division's bottom three. A first win of the season against Worcestershire will be the best possible prepara-tion for Gayle at Taunton.

Hampshire squad v Worcestershire (from): Adams, Dawson, Carberry, Vince, Smith, Wheater, Ervine, Berg, Wheal, A.Adams, Edwards, Briggs, Tomlinson.

## Alan Wassell makes good progress

ALAN Wassell, the former Hampshire slow left-armer, is making good progress after suffering a debilitating stroke last year, thanks to help from the Professional Cricketers Association Benevolent Fund.

Wassell, 75, lost his speech and was confined to a wheelchair in January 2014 but has now regained some mobility after physiotherapy sessions

Peter Haslop, another former Hampshire player, suggested that Wassell approach the PCA for help and the Benevolent Fund put him in touch with Hobbs Rehabilitation. which is based near his home in

"The physio that Alan has been working with has done wonders for him." said Wassell's wife Joan.

"He's now walking with a stick and is able to walk round the block. He's had regular sessions with the physio coming to the house. She has been a great help to him and he has got a lot of faith in her."

Wassell took 317 wickets at 27 for Hampshire from 1957 to 1966 - including 54 at 24 as the county won their first Championship title under Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie in 1961. He is an active member of the PCA.

"We went to one of their Past Player



Alan Wassell (third from right)

Days at Arundel a couple of years ago which we thoroughly enjoyed," Joan said.

"It was Peter Haslop who suggested to Alan that he got in touch with the PCA to see if they could help him ecause he knew other people in different circumstances who had been helped by the Benevolent Fund.

"We got in touch and they said they were very willing to assist us and they have been a great help and support to

Wassell has set himself the target of playing golf again.

"He has a bit of a problem with his shoulder which restricts his swing but he has been up to the range a few times," Joan said.

The Benevolent Fund is part of the PCA's commitment to helping current and former players and their dependants in times of hardship and upheaval or to readjust to the world beyond the game.

e Fund also supports players and their dependants with medical advice. a much-needed operation and with specialist advice, care or assistance

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## **LOCAL CRICKET**





Felix Organ, left and Ben Duggar

# Teen duo are heroes of Academy's narrow win

TWO new kids on the Academy block, Felix Organ and Ben Duggan were the unsung heroes of a thrilling penultimate ball three-wicket SEPL victory over Burridge last weekend.

They shared a match winning 115-run partnership after the Academy, chasing down a Burridge total of 239-9, went from a high of 88-0 to a depressing 106-5 in a short space of time.

Organ belied his tender 16 years to hit 60, while Duggan, who shared that 88-run start with Joe Weatherley (41), carried his bat through the innings to make a maiden SPL century.

The pair are probably unknowns on the Premier cricket circuit – but not so to Academy chief Bobby Parks.

Spin all-rounder Organ has been a significant presence on the junior county circuit for some years, certainly since leading his home club, St Cross, to the ECB Under-13 national title in 2012. He made an instant mark, scoring an unbeaten 57 in the Academy's opening day defeat by champions South Wilts and, before making his

60 at Burridge, returned a tidy 4-42 with the ball.
Organ is now in his GCSE year at Canford and, once the exams are behind him, will be eating and sleeping cricket for the summer.

Left-hand opening bat Ben Duggan hails from the Isle of Wight and played his colts cricket at Northwood.

He dipped his toes in SPL cricket as a 15-year old with Portsmouth & Southsea in 2013, spending last season with Ventnor, before receiving his Academy call up last autumn.

The three-wicket victory over Burridge was the Academy's second consecutive win – an unbeaten run they plan to extend when Alton visit for the last of the current run of 50-over matches.

# Parks was poised to play again

FORMER Hampshire gloveman Bobby Parks came precariously close to coming out of retirement when his Academy team faced a wicket-keeping crisis last weekend.

Parks, who celebrated over 1,000 dismissals in a distinguished career behind the stumps for the county, thought he might be back in business just before the start of play at Burridge.

"It began when Tom Alsop cried off ill in the morning," Parks explained.

Swindon's Jake Goodwin was all set to deputize, but then injured his hand in the warm-up – X-rays revealed a fractured bone. "I was all set to dust off the gloves, but then Andy Gorvin put his hand up and answered the call," Parks smiled. "He did it provided the call," Parks smiled. "He did it poked a natural."



**Bobby Parks** 

# Regional semi-final

THIS Sunday is regional semi-final time in the ECB Royal London national club championship and Davidstow Village Cup national competitions.

Southern Electric Premier Leaguers Havant go head-tohead with Basingstoke & North Hants and South Wilts host Ventnor at Bemerton in the ECB Cup.

In the Village Cup, Sparsholt play Follands and Hursley Park travel to Eversley.

Across the county border, Parley Sports aim for a place in the Dorset/Wiltshire final when they play Great Bedwyn.

Shrewton play Wiltshire club Goatacre – who won the Village Cup at Lord's in both 1988 and 1990 – and Rowledge have home advantage against Surrey rivals Lingfield. All the matches start at 1 pm.

# HIGH HOPES FOR SEASON

SARISBURY Athletic captain Jon Floyd is anxious to lead his high-flying second team out of the Hampshire League at the end of the season, writes Mike Vimpany.

Currently second in the log and only seven points behind Fair Oak, the only other unbeaten side, Sarisbury were chasing a fourth straight win when Hook & Newnham Basics II visited Allotment Road today.

"It's crucial we progress to a higher level and shorten the gap between our firsts in the Premier Division and ourselves in tier five," Floyd said. "Our target is definitely to get promoted and I feel the squad is strong enough to achieve that."

Sarisbury beat Ellingham (193) by 61 runs to record a third straight win. It wasn't that straight forward as

SA were 142-7 before teenager Josh Stewart-Hill (57) helped them to a match winning 254-9.

Peter Hammond's spell of 4-36 ensured Ellingham fell short.

"Pete has dropped down from the first team. He's a fine attacking batsman and off-spinner, who will play an influential role for us," Floyd added. Fair Oak, whose final day meeting

Fair Oak, whose final day meeting with Sarisbury may decide the title, made short work of Purbrook, beating their hosts by a massive 221 runs.

Ed Kemp (60) and the exciting Rufus Bullough (51) led a Oak's run blitz, which saw Purbrook smashed for 296-8 then skittled for a meagre 75.

Three points separate the next five



Peter Hammond of Sarisbury appeals for a wicket.

teams in the log – Ryde climbing several places on the back of a seven-run win over visiting Portchester.

Ben Wadmore (47), Tom Morgan (41), Stuart Robertson (41) and Sam Rockley (37) eased Ryde to 244.

Portchester were 145-3 but with only Paul Hungerford (36) of the six batsmen in their 20s to progress, they fell short, Simon Wratten taking 3-23. Shrewton moved into fourth spot after chasing down a Burridge total of 243-7 to win by two wickets with time to spare.

Will Sleeman (49) and Sam Gillot (37) overcame the early loss to Rich Barnett to put the Shrews in a good

But it was Dan Bingley (47) and skipper Chris Brewer who laid the middle-order foundation for Shrewton's second win in three.

Earlier, Sugi Wickmanisingh's 82 underpinned the Burridge total, though 45 from Clive Slaughter meant Shrewton chasing a larger target than they might have wished. 37 DAILY ECHO Saturday, May 30, 2015

## **LOCAL CRICKET**

# BIRD'S CLOSE TO DEBUT

HAMPSHIRE overseas signing Jackson Bird has spoken of his frustration at being unable to make his debut since his arrival last month.

The former Australia fast bowler has been sidelined with a shoulder/neck injury since arriving in mid-April – but is on course to make his debut in June.

Bird played in a 50-over friendly against World Cup finalists New Zealand at the Ageas Bowl on Friday, before telling ageasbowl.com how frustrated he has been by his latest injury.

"It was hugely disappointing for me, not being able to contribute and to not be on the field was difficult," he said. "I had a slight strain in my bicep and then further scans showed a bulging disk in my neck that would probably need surgery.

probably need surgery.
"The prognosis wasn't that good when I first saw the doctor and it was obviously tough being told I might be out of the game for 12 months. But I stayed here for a few weeks to see if I could build my strength up and it started to get a lot better.

"We decided I would keep trying to build on that and it's worked out really well. Now I'm almost bowling at 100 per cent so I'm hoping to be available for selection in the next couple of weeks or so.

"The patience shown by the guys here and the support that Hampshire has given me has been great.

"They've been huge in helping me to focus on building back to full fitness and my bowling which will hopefully mean getting back on the



GRATEFUL: Jackson Bird is on course to make his Hampshire debut in June after playing for the Second XI this week

field and in good form, a lot earlier than we thought I'd be able to. With some important games coming up, I'm looking forward to being able to contribute. We have some top performers so it's only a matter of time before we get that first win."

South Wilts captain Tom Morton

has become an Honorary Kiwi!

He turned out for New Zealand in Friday's washed out one-day warm-up match against Hampshire - and stole the show! Morton opened the batting and made an unbeaten 31 of the Black Caps' 48-1 before a cloud-burst ended proceedings.

burst ended proceedings.
"I was amazed when Nathan McCul-

lum asked me to open the batting," he said. "Facing Jackson Bird and my South Wilts' team-mate Ryan Duffield was an unreal experience. But I felt really good and played some nice shots." St Cross Symondians' Michael Pollard was the Kiwi man out, brilliantly caught one-handed at slip by Joe Gatting off Bird's bowling.



Matt Stokes

# Islander Matt stokes enough fire to go further in the game

ONE swallow doesn't make a summer, but 19-year old Matt Stokes showed enough potential at South Wilts last weekend to show he could be a player to be reckoned with on the Southern Electric Premier League circuit, perhaps beyond, in the next few years. Stokes, pictured, hails from Guern-

Stokes, pictured, hails from Guernsey and is highly rated in Channel Island circles, so much so he's already played umpteen times in European and ICC Trophy matches, writes Mike Vimpany.

He's also due to start a threeyear sports management course at Southampton Solent University this autumn, hence the local links.

Educated at the prestigious Elizabeth College, Stokes made a number of SPL appearances prior to making an indelible mark on his potential in front of an approving Bemerton vice-president's day audience

He initially displayed his prowess with the ball, being introduced in the seventh over after Harry Foyle had been belted out of the St Cross Symondians attack, after conceding 35 runs in no time at all.

Bowling medium-pace, Stokes returned a tidy 1-38 off ten overs, including the wicket of Tom Morton, who will be his cricket 'boss' at Solent next summer.

South Wilts recovered from 63-6 to post 217-9 – and then, in six astonishing overs, reduce St Cross to 27-6.

"The wickets were down to some great new ball bowling," Morton said.

It was at that point Stokes made his bow with the bat and how well he did.

With fellow teenager Charlie Ayres (66) his partner, Stokes hit 65 before being run out by Eddie Abel. "He played a very gutsy and or-

ganised innings," Morton added.
"He got them back to a very strong position and arguably to a

strong position and arguably to a point where they should have won. "Matt also bowled well. He's certainly one to keep an eye on."

St Cross Symondians, having threatened at 194-7, were eventually dismissed three runs later – but in the process of an absorbing 100-over contest gave South Wilts a real fright.

## Watkins to skipper Bashley

SIMON Watkins is set to skipper Southern Electric Premier League Bashley (Rydal) for the rest of the season.

Watkins deputised after Richard Morris announced he would be relinquishing the role due to increased work commitments earlier this month. He led Bashley to a three-wicket win over neighbours Lymington in his first game and the club's committee subsequently asked him to stay on.

Bashley trio Michael Porter, Sam Thomson and Luke Webb will join Lymington leftarm spin all-rounder Darren Cowley in the Dorset squad for Sunday's Minor Counties Championship t20 regional day at Exmouth.

Dorset face Cornwall and, if they win, will play Devon or Wiltshire in the final at teatime.



Simon Watkins

# Oilmen in first loss

THE Fawley flame was glowing a treat with the Oilmen unbeaten and top of Southern Electric Premier Division 2.

Or at least that was the case until Portsmouth rocked up at Holbury and inflicted a crushing seven-wicket defeat. Fawley were skittled for a paltry 79 in the 27th over – a

Fawley were skittled for a paltry 79 in the 27th over – a total table-topping Portsmouth, now the only undefeated SPL2 side, polished off in 23 overs.

polished off in 23 overs. Skipper Tom Gates was anxious to get the Fawley show back on the road at Hambledon today and had opening batsman Paul Marks available for the first time this

He said: "After a great start to the season hopefully we can show that this was just a blip and get our season back on track with a win at Hambledon."

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40 PINE DAILY ECHO Saturday, May 30, 2015

## Blues sharpshooter gazumped by youngster

CHELSEA ace Diego Costa met someone this week who scored more goals than he did in 2014-15.

The £32m striker bumped into a group of Fordingbridge Turks youth team players – all Chelsea FC junior members – who had been to a training session at Stamford Bridge. Turks under-12s top

Turks under-12s top scorer Tom Sweeney and his dad, Tony, had been at the Sunderland game the previous Sunday to witness the 3-1 victory and also to see Costa score his 20th Premier League.

Tom, who was wearing a full Costa Chelsea kit, was quick to point out to the Spanish international that he had managed seven more goals in 2014-15 than his hero.

Tony said: "Possibly due to Diego's limited English, apparently only 10 words, he did not seem to see the funny side."



Chelsea hot-shot Diego Costa with Fordingbridge youth team players Anthony Sweeney, Tom Sweeney, Alfie Beckwith and Simon Windsor at Stamford Bridge this week.

# Howe's high hopes

#### EDDIE Howe finally ended his lengthy pursuit of Joshua King before tipping the frontman for big things at Dean Court.

King became Cherries' third new signing in as many days when he agreed terms on a three-year deal after turning down a new contract at Blackburn.

Cherries are still in negotiation with Rovers regarding a fee which could be determined by a tribunal if the clubs are unable to reach agreement.

King, 23, joined Blackburn from Manchester United in January 2013 but had become increasingly frustrated at a lack of game time at Ewood Park.

He scored eight goals in 74 appearances for Rovers – including eight games during a loan spell – and has also netted four times for Norway.

Howe has been a long-time admirer and Cherries were close to signing the 15-times capped international at the 11th hour in the August transfer window.

Howe said: "Josh will bring us a lot of pace. He is a good technical player as well, a good size and somebody who is very good in the air.

"We are very pleased on a number of levels and I think his addition improves the athleticism of the squad.

"He is a young guy but with good experiences in the game. He had a great grounding at Manchester United and was lucky enough to play under the great Sir Alex Forguson

der the great Sir Alex Ferguson. "He also has good international experience with Norway. I have seen



Joshua King this week joined Premier League newcomers Bournemouth.

him play regularly for the national team and he has always done well at international level.

"To bring that type of experience into the squad and at an age to improve his game further makes it very attractive to us.

"There is scope for development in his game and I don't think we have seen the very best of Josh yet. Hopefully, we can give him the stage to deliver that."

King's stock rose sharply after had he scored a hat-trick to knock Stoke City out of the FA Cup in the fifth round in February. Howe added: "I think we saw in flashes during his time at Blackburn what a good player he can be and the Stoke game was a real stand-out moment.

"Whether it is as a central striker or a wide player, his versatility will be invaluable to us.

"I wouldn't bracket him as a winger, I would bracket him as an attacking player.

"He can play the number-nine role and the wide role.

"To have players with the flexibility to play various roles will be important to us.

"We are going to need players with pace to cause teams problems in the

Premier League.
"I think the best years of Josh's career are in front of him and, hopefully, he will have a good time with ""."

Howe had previously signed goalkeeper Artur Boruc following his release by Saints, and fellow thirtysomething shot-stopper Adam Federici from Reading. Boruc made 37 league appearances

Boruc made 37 league appearances on loan from Saints in 2014/15, finishing on the losing side only four times as Cherries won the title.

# Anderson joins the Test elite

JAMES Anderson joined the elite group of bowlers to have taken 400 Test wickets when he took the wicket of New Zealand opener Martin Guptill at Headingley.

Here are the others who have taken 400 or more.

Muttiah Muralitharan (800) The Sri Lankan only played 29 more Tests than Anderson and has double the amount of wickets.

Shane Warne (708)
Leg-spin was considered a
dying art before former
Hampshire skipper Warne
brought it back into the
mainstream.

There were not many batsmen who could resist the brash Australian's many variations, or his acid tongue on occasion.
Anil Kumble (619)
Glenn McGrath (563)
Courtney Walsh (519)
Kapil Dev (434)
Sir Richard Hadlee (431)
Shaun Pollock (421)
Wasim Akram (414)
Harbhajan Singh (413)
Curtly Ambrose (405)



James Anderson

# Try out at croquet

TEST Valley Croquet Club are keen to recruit new members.

The club meets at Hunts Farm Sports Ground, Timsbury, near Romsey, twice a week.

They get together at 2pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. New members of any age or



P65p ISSN 0969-56X

Published by Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd and printed at Newsquest (Southern) Ltd, from the offics at Newspaper House, Redbridge, Southampton, S016 9JX. Telephone 023 8042 4800. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. 126th year.